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LETTERS

OF

MARQUIS WELLESLEY,

RESPECTING THE

COLLEGE

OF

FORT WILLIAM.



London :

PUBLISHED BY J. HATCHARD, PICCADILLY.

1842

state, has produced the most important benefits* to the public service in India, and will undoubtedly receive the support of MR. WHITBREAD, MR. WILBERFORCE, and of all those members of both Houses of Parliament, who have taken so active a part in meliorating the condition of the human race. These liberal and public-spirited statesmen will *not* abandon an institution, which was intended to afford the most effectual means of preserving and securing to FIFTY MILLIONS of people, that *primary* object of all good government,—AN IMPARTIAL ADMINISTRATION OF JUST LAW. Nor will Lord Grenville, nor Mr. Canning, nor the numerous friends of literature in this country, refuse their countenance to an establishment, which, if duly supported, holds out the most generous encouragement to men of talents and erudition, and has *already* instructed

* Vide the speeches of Lord Minto, the present Governor-General of India, and of General Hewitt.

so many of the public servants in India in the language, history, laws, religion, and LEARNING of the people, whom they are destined to govern.

With these sentiments, the Publisher offers to the consideration of the Legislature,

First,—A statement of the reasons, which induced the MARQUIS WELLESLEY to found a COLLEGIATE INSTITUTION at Fort William.

Second,—The REGULATION for the foundation of the College.

Third,—The Orders of the COURT OF DIRECTORS, directing the *abolition* of the College.

Fourth,—The MARQUIS WELLESLEY's Reply to the Court's orders.



It may be useful to add, that a College for the instruction of the Civil Servants in Bengal

still continues ; but that no institution has been provided for the improvement of the public service at Fort St. George and Bombay, where such an establishment is equally required. Indeed, from the circumstance of the Natives in Bengal not speaking the English language, and the consequent necessity which is imposed on Europeans, in that part of India, of acquiring some knowledge of the Oriental languages, a college is not required so much at Calcutta as at the other Settlements, where the Natives understand something of English, and where the Company's Civil Servants have not hitherto made the languages of the East so essential an object of their pursuits, as has always been the case with the Civil Servants in Bengal. The Court of Directors have, it is true, founded an Oriental College at HERTFORD; and the Public will determine, (from the documents now republished,) whether the important objects contemplated by Lord Wellesley are likely to be best attained in INDIA, or in ENGLAND; or by a continuance of *both* the

institutions at Hertford and Calcutta, with an extension of the latter (according to the *original* plan) to the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay.

Whatever may be the result of that determination, the FOUNDER of the COLLEGE of FORT WILLIAM will have the satisfaction of knowing, that, under his administration, the most effectual means “ were employed and enforced “ for promoting the cultivation of rational “ knowledge among the Servants of the Company, and thereby for securing the RELIGIOUS “ and CIVIL RIGHTS of FIFTY MILLIONS of an “ ingenious and industrious people ;—those “ rights which are the inheritance of their “ fathers, which they themselves consider as “ sacred, and on which, therefore, their prosperity, welfare, and happiness essentially “ depend.”

MINUTE IN COUNCIL AT FORT WILLIAM,

Dated the 18th August, 1800,

BY

THE MARQUIS WELLESLEY,

CONTAINING

HIS REASONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT

OF A

COLLEGE AT CALCUTTA.

I.

1. The British possessions in India now constitute one of the most extensive and populous empires in the world. The immediate administration of the government of the various provinces and nations composing this empire, is principally confided to the European civil servants of the East India Company. Those provinces, namely, Bengal, Behar, Orissa, and Benares, the Company's Jaghire in the Carnatic, the Northern Circars, the Baramahal, and other districts ceded by the peace of Seringapatam in 1792, which are under the more immediate and direct administration of the European civil servants of the Company, are acknowledged to form the most opulent and flourishing part of India, in which property, life, civil order, and religious liberty, are more secure, and the people enjoy a larger portion of the benefits of good government, than in any other country in this quarter of the globe. The duty and policy of the British Government in India therefore

require, that the system of confiding the immediate exercise of every branch and department of the government to Europeans educated in its own service, and subject to its own direct control, should be diffused as widely as possible, as well with a view to the stability of our own interests, as to the happiness and welfare of our native subjects. This principle formed the basis of the wise and benevolent system introduced by Lord Cornwallis, for the improvement of the internal government of the provinces immediately subject to the presidency of Bengal.

2. In proportion to the extension of this beneficial system, the duties of the European civil servants of the East India Company, are become of greater magnitude and importance; the denominations of writer, factor, and merchant, by which the several classes of the civil service are still distinguished, are now utterly inapplicable to the nature and extent of the duties discharged, and of the occupations pursued by the civil servants of the Company.

3. To dispense justice to millions of people of various languages, manners, usages, and religions; to administer a vast and complicated system of revenue throughout districts, equal in extent to some of the most considerable kingdoms in Europe; to maintain civil order in one of the most populous and litigious regions of the world; these are now the duties of the larger proportion of the civil servants of the Company. The senior merchants composing the five courts of circuit and appeal, under the presidency of Bengal, exercise in each of those courts, a jurisdiction of greater local extent, applicable to a larger population, and occupied in the determination of causes infinitely more intricate and numerous, than

that of any of the regularly constituted courts of justice in any part of Europe. The senior or junior merchants employed in the several magistracies and Zillah courts, the writers or factors filling the stations of registers and assistants to the several courts, and magistrates, exercise in different degrees, functions of a nature either purely judicial, or intimately connected with the administration of the police, and with the maintenance of the peace and good order of their respective districts. Commercial and mercantile knowledge is not only unnecessary throughout every branch of the judicial department, but those civil servants who are invested with the powers of magistracy, or attached to the judicial department in any ministerial capacity, although bearing the denomination of merchants, factors, or writers, are bound by law, and by the solemn obligation of an oath, to abstain from every commercial and mercantile pursuit. The mercantile title which they bear, not only affords no description of their duty, but is entirely at variance with it.

4. The pleadings in the several courts, and all important judicial transactions, are conducted in the native languages. The law which the Company's judges are bound to administer throughout the country, is not the law of England, but that law to which the natives had long been accustomed under their former sovereigns, tempered and mitigated by the voluminous regulations of the Governor-General in Council, as well as by the general spirit of the British Constitution. These observations are sufficient to prove, that no more arduous or complicated duties of magistracy exist in the world, no qualifications more various or comprehensive can be imagined, than those which are required from every Bri-

fish subject, who enters the seat of judgment, within the limits of the Company's empire in India.

5. To the administration of the revenue, many of the preceding observations will apply with equal force; the merchants, factors, and writers employed in this department also, are bound by law to abjure the mercantile denomination appropriated to their respective classes in the Company's service; nor is it possible for a collector of the revenue, or for any civil servant employed under him, to discharge his duty with common justice, either to the state, or to the people, unless he shall be conversant in the language, manners, and usages of the country, and in the general principles of the law as administered in the several courts of justice. In addition to the ordinary judicial and executive functions of the judges, magistrates, and collectors, the judges and magistrates occasionally act in the capacity of governors of their respective districts, employing military, and exercising other extensive powers. The judges, magistrates, and collectors, are also respectively required by law, to propose from time to time to the Governor-General in Council, such amendments of the existing laws, or such new laws as may appear to them to be necessary to the welfare and good government of their respective districts. In this view, the civil servants employed in the departments of judicature and revenue, constitute a species of subordinate legislative Council to the Governor-General in Council, and also a channel of communication, by which the government ought to be enabled at all times to ascertain the wants and wishes of the people. The remarks applied to these two main branches of the civil service, namely, those of judicature and revenue, are at least equally forcible in their application

to those branches which may be described under the general terms of the political and financial departments, comprehending the offices of chief secretary, the various stations in the secretary's office, in the treasury, and in the office of accountant-general, together with all the public officers employed in conducting the current business at the seat of government. To these must be added the diplomatic branch, including the several residencies at the courts of our dependant and tributary princes, or of other native powers of India.

6. It is certainly desirable that all these stations should be filled by the civil servants of the Company; it is equally evident, that qualifications are required in each of these stations, either wholly foreign to commercial habits, or far exceeding the limits of a commercial education.

7. Even that department of the empire which is denominated exclusively commercial, requires knowledge and habits different in a considerable degree from those which form the mercantile character in Europe. Nor can the Company's investment ever be conducted with the greatest possible advantage and honour to themselves, or with adequate justice to their subjects, unless their commercial agents shall possess many of the qualifications of statesmen, enumerated in the preceding observations. The manufacturers and other industrious classes, whose productive labour is the source of the investment, bear so great a proportion to the total population of the Company's dominions, that the general happiness and prosperity of the country must essentially depend on the conduct of the commercial servants employed in providing the investment; their conduct cannot be answerable to such a charge, unless they be

conversant in the native languages, and in the customs and manners of the people, as well as in the laws by which the country is governed. The peace, order, and welfare of whole provinces, may be materially affected by the malversations, or even by the ignorance and errors of a commercial resident, whose management touches the dearest and most valuable interests, and enters into the domestic concerns of numerous bodies of people, active and acute from habitual industry, and jealous of any act of power injurious to their properties, or contrary to their prejudices and customs.

8. The civil servants of the English East India Company, therefore, can no longer be considered as the agents of a COMMERCIAL CONCERN; they are in fact the ministers and officers of a POWERFUL SOVEREIGN; they must now be viewed in that capacity with a reference, not to their nominal, but to their real occupations. They are required to discharge the functions of magistrates, judges, ambassadors, and governors of provinces, in all the complicated and extensive relations of those sacred trusts and exalted stations, and under peculiar circumstances which greatly enhance the solemnity of every public obligation, and aggravate the difficulty of every public charge. Their duties are those of statesmen in every other part of the world, with no other characteristic differences than the obstacles opposed by an unfavourable climate, a foreign language, the peculiar usages and laws of India, and the manners of its inhabitants. Their studies, the discipline of their education, their habits of life, their manners and morals, should therefore be so ordered and regulated as to establish a just conformity between their personal consideration, and the dignity and importance of their public stations, and a sufficient cor-

responsence between their qualifications and their duties. Their education should be founded in a general knowledge of those branches of literature and science, which form the basis of the education of persons destined to similar occupations in Europe. To this foundation should be added an intimate acquaintance with the history, languages, customs, and manners of the people of India, with the Mahomedan and Hindu codes of law and religion, and with the political and commercial interests and relations of Great Britain in Asia. They should be regularly instructed in the principles and system which constitute the foundation of that wise code of regulation, and laws enacted by the Governor-general in Council, for the purpose of securing to the people of this empire, the benefit of the ancient and established laws of the country, administered in the spirit of the British constitution. They should be well informed of the true and sound principles of the British constitution, and sufficiently grounded in the general principles of ethics, civil jurisprudence, the laws of nations, and general history, in order that they may be enabled to discriminate the characteristic differences of the several codes of law administered within the British empire in India, and practically to combine the spirit of each in the dispensation of justice, and in the maintenance of order and good government. Finally, their early habits should be formed, to establish in their minds such solid foundations of industry, prudence, integrity, and religion, as should effectually guard them against those temptations and corruptions with which the nature of the climate and the peculiar depravity of the people of India, will surround and assail them in every station, especially upon their first arrival in India. The early discipline of the service should

be calculated to counteract the defects of the climate and the vices of the people, and to form a natural barrier against habitual indolence, dissipation, and licentious indulgence; the spirit of emulation in honourable and useful pursuits should be kindled and kept alive by the continual prospect of distinction and reward, of profit and honour; nor should any precaution be relaxed in India which is deemed necessary in England, to furnish a sufficient supply of men, qualified to fill the high offices of the state, with credit to themselves, and with advantage to the public. Without such a constant succession of men in the several branches and departments of this government, the wisdom and benevolence of the law must prove vain and insufficient. Whatever course and system of discipline and study may be deemed requisite in England to secure an abundant and pure source for the efficient supply of the public service, the peculiar nature of our establishments in the East (so far from admitting any relaxation of those wise and salutary rules and restraints) demands, that they should be enforced with a degree of additional vigilance and care, proportioned to the aggravated difficulties of the civil service, and to the numerous hazards surrounding the entrance of public life in India.

II.

9. It is unnecessary to enter into any examination of facts to prove, that no system of education, study, or discipline, now exists either in Europe or in India, founded on the principles, or directed to the objects, described in the preceding pages; but it may be useful in this place to review the course through which the junior civil servants of the East India Company now enter upon the important duties of their respective stations, to con-

sider to what degree they now possess, or can attain any means of qualifying themselves sufficiently for those stations, and to examine whether the great body of the civil servants of the East India Company at any of the Presidencies, can now be deemed competent to discharge their arduous and comprehensive trusts, in a manner correspondent to the interests and honour of the British name in India, or to the prosperity and happiness of our native subjects.

10. The age at which the writers usually arrive in India, is from sixteen to eighteen. Their parents or friends in England, from a variety of considerations, are naturally desirous, not only to accelerate the appointment at home, but to dispatch the young man to India at the earliest possible period. Some of these young men have been educated with an express view to the civil service in India, on principles utterly erroneous and inapplicable to its actual condition; conformably to this error, they have received a limited education, confined principally to commercial knowledge, and in no degree extended to those liberal studies which constitute the basis of education at public schools in England. Even this limited course of study is interrupted at the early period of fifteen or seventeen years.

11. It would be superfluous to enter into any argument to demonstrate the absolute insufficiency of this class of young men to execute the duties of any station whatever in the civil service of the Company, beyond the menial, laborious, unwholesome, and unprofitable duty of a mere copying clerk. Those who have received the benefits of a better education, have the misfortune to find the course of their studies prematurely interrupted at the critical

period when its utility is first felt, and before they have been enabled to secure the fruits of early application.

12. Both descriptions of young men, those whose education has been originally erroneous and defective; and those, the early promise of whose studies has been unseasonably broken, when arrived in India, are equally precluded from the means, either of commencing a new and judicious course of study, adapted to their new situation, or of prosecuting that course which has been unseasonably interrupted. Not only no encouragement is offered by the present constitution and practice of the civil service to any such pursuits, but difficulties and obstacles are presented by both, which render it nearly impossible for any young man, whatever may be his disposition, to pursue any systematic plan of study, either with a view to remedy the defects, or to improve the advantages of his former education.

13. On the arrival of the writers in India, they are either stationed in the interior of the country, or employed in some office at the presidency.

14. If stationed in the interior of the country, they are placed in situations which require a knowledge of the language and customs of the natives; or of the regulations and laws; or of the general principles of jurisprudence; or of the details of the established systems of revenue; or of the nature of the Company's investment, or of many of these branches of information combined. In all these branches of knowledge, the young writers are totally uninformed, and they are consequently unequal to their prescribed duties. In some cases, their superior in office, experiencing no benefit from their services, leaves them unemployed: in this state, many devote their time to those luxuries and enjoyments which

their situation enables them to command, without making any effort to qualify themselves for the important stations to which they are destined. They remain sunk in indolence, until, from their station in the service, they succeed to offices of high public trust.

15. Positive incapacity is the necessary result of these pernicious habits of inaction, the principles of public integrity are endangered, and the successful administration of the whole government exposed to hazard. This has been the unhappy course of many who have conceived an early disgust, in provincial stations, against business to which they have found themselves unequal, and who have been abandoned to the effects of despondency and sloth.

16. Even the young men whose dispositions are the most promising, if stationed in the interior of the country, at an early period after their arrival in India, labour under great disadvantages. They also find themselves unequal to such duties, as require an acquaintance with the languages, or with the branches of knowledge already described. If entirely employed in the subordinate details of office, they are absolutely precluded from reviving any former acquirements, or from establishing those foundations of useful knowledge indispensably necessary to enable them hereafter to execute the duties of important stations with ability and credit. Harassed with the ungrateful task of transcribing papers and accounts, or with other equally fatiguing and fruitless labours of a copying clerk or index maker, their pursuit of useful knowledge cannot be systematic; if attempted in any degree, their studies are desultory and irregular, and their attention to any definite pursuit is still more distracted by the uncertainty of the nature of those employments to

which they may hereafter be nominated.—No course of study having been pointed out by public institution, no selection prescribed by authority of the branches of knowledge appropriated to each department and class of the service, diligence is lost for want of a guide, and the most industrious are discouraged by the apprehension that their studies may prove fruitless, and may frustrate, instead of promoting, their advancement in the public service.

17. When their rank in the service has entitled them to succeed to offices of importance, the current duties of these offices necessarily engross their whole attention. It is then too late to revert to any systematic plan of study with a view to acquire those qualifications of which, in the ordinary discharge of their official functions, they feel the hourly want; if at this late season they should make an effort to acquire knowledge, it must be sought by the interruption of their current business, to the detriment of the public interests, and to the inconvenience or injury of the individuals subject to their authority.

18. With respect to the young men attached to the offices at the presidency, their duty consists chiefly in transcribing papers. This duty, if pursued with the utmost diligence and assiduity, affords little knowledge of public affairs, is often prejudicial to health, and would be better performed by any native or Portuguese writer. They obtain no distinct knowledge of the public records, because they pursue no regular course of reading, examining, or comparing the documents which compose those public records; they have indeed scarcely time to understand and digest those papers which they are employed to transcribe; their acquaintance even with the current affairs of the government must be limited and

partial, and must rather tend to confuse than to instruct their minds. At the expiration of the period during which they usually remain in these situations at the presidency, their knowledge of public business is necessarily superficial and incorrect; having had little intercourse with the natives, these young men are in general extremely deficient in the knowledge of the language of the country. In the mean time, their close and laborious application to the hourly business of transcribing papers has been an insuperable objection to their advancement in any other branch of knowledge, and at the close of two or three years they have lost the fruits of their European studies, without having gained any useful knowledge of Asiatic literature or business. Those whose dispositions lead them to idleness and dissipation, find greater temptations to indulgence and extravagance at the presidency, than in the provinces. Many instances occur in which they fall into irretrievable courses of gaming, and totally destroy their health and fortunes. Some succeed, in the ordinary progress of the service, to employments, in which their incapacity or misconduct becomes conspicuous to the natives, disgraceful to themselves, and injurious to the state.

19. All these descriptions of young men, upon their first arrival in India, are now exposed to a disadvantage the most perilous that can be encountered at an early period of life. Once landed in India, their studies, manners, morals, expences, or conduct, are no longer subject to any degree of regulation or direction; no system is established for their guidance, improvement, or restraint; no authority has been constituted with either the duty or power of enforcing any such system; and they are abandoned at the age of sixteen or eighteen,

with affluent incomes, to pursue their own inclinations, without the superintendence or controul of parent, guardian, or master ; often without a friend to advise or admonish, or even to instruct them in the ordinary details and modes of an Indian life.

20. The practice of consigning the young writers to the care of friends resident in India, affords no adequate remedy to this evil. Those friends are often incompetent to the arduous and delicate task imposed upon them ; and it frequently happens that they may be so far removed from the spot at which the young man may be stationed by the government, that years may elapse before he may have been able even to see the persons appointed by his European friends to superintend his introduction into India.

21. In earlier periods of our establishment; when the annual incomes of the civil servants were of a more fluctuating nature, and derived from sources more vague and indefinite, the tables of the senior servants were usually open to those more recently arrived from Europe ; and the young writers, upon their first landing in India, were frequently admitted and domiciliated in the families established at the presidency, or in the provinces.

22. The objections to this loose and irregular system were numerous and obvious : without entering upon that topic, it is sufficient to observe, that the definite and regular sources of profit established in the civil service by Lord Cornwallis, have occasioned a material alteration in the economy of every private family among the civil servants.

23. Incomes being limited and ascertained, and no other source of emolument now existing beyond the annual savings from the regulated salaries, the tables of

the civil servants can no longer be open to receive the numerous body of writers annually arriving from Europe; still less can these young men be generally admitted to reside habitually in families, of which the annual expenses are now necessarily restrained within certain and regular boundaries.

24. Many of the young men, on their first arrival, are therefore compelled to support the expense of a table; the result of this necessarily is obvious, and forms one leading cause of expense and dissipation.

25. Under all these early disadvantages, without rule or system to direct their studies, without any prescribed object of useful pursuit connected with future reward, emolument, or distinction; without any guide to regulate or authority to control their conduct, or to form, improve, or preserve their morals, it is highly creditable to the individual characters of the civil servants of the East India Company, that so many instances have occurred, in various branches and departments of the civil service at all the presidencies, of persons who have discharged their public duties with considerable respect and honor.

26. It has been justly observed, that all the merits of the civil servants are to be ascribed to their own character, talents, and exertions, while their defects must be imputed to the constitution and practice of the service, which have not been accommodated to the progressive changes of our situation in India, and have not kept pace with the growth of this empire, or with the increasing extent and importance of the functions and duties of the civil servants.

27. The study and acquisition of the languages have however been extended in Bengal; and the general knowledge and qualifications of the civil servants have been

improved: the proportion of the civil servants in Bengal, who have made a considerable progress towards the attainment of the qualifications requisite in their several stations, appears great, and even astonishing when viewed with regard to the early disadvantages, embarrassments, and defects of the civil service. But this proportion will appear very different when compared with the exigencies of the state, with the magnitude of these provinces, and with the total number of the civil servants, which must supply the succession to the great offices of the government. It must be admitted that the great body of the civil servants in Bengal, is not at present sufficiently qualified to discharge the duties of the several arduous stations in the administration of this empire; and that it is peculiarly deficient in the judicial, fiscal, financial, and political branches of the government.

28. The state of the civil services of Madras and Bombay is still more defective than that of Bengal. Various causes have concurred to aggravate in an extreme degree, at both those presidencies, all the defects existing in the civil service of Bengal, while many circumstances peculiar to those presidencies have favoured the growth of evils at present unknown in this. The condition of the writers on their first arrival at either of the subordinate presidencies is still more destitute, and more exposed to hazard than at Calcutta.

29. The study and acquisition of the languages, and of other necessary attainments, has not been extended in the civil service at Madras or Bombay to any considerable degree. To this remark eminent and meritorious individual exceptions exist in the civil service, at both the subordinate presidencies; but those exceptions are not sufficiently numerous to constitute a general rule. But

whatever may be the actual condition of the civil service in its superior classes at any of the presidencies, if the arduous duties of that service have been justly defined in preceding pages, if the qualifications necessary for their discharge have been truly described, if the neglected and exposed condition of the early stages of the service has not been exaggerated, it must be admitted that those stages of the service require additional safeguards, and a more effectual protection. The extraordinary exertions of individual diligence, the partial success of singular talents, or of peculiar prudence and virtue, constitute no rational foundation of a public institution, which should rest on general and certain principles. If the actual state of the higher classes of the civil service were such as to justify a confidence in the general competency of the civil servants to meet the exigencies of their duties, the necessity of correcting the evil stated in the preceding pages would still remain, unless the facts alleged could be disproved. It would still be a duty incumbent on the government to remove any obstacles tending to embarrass or retard the progress of their servants in attaining the qualifications necessary for their respective stations. The government is not released from this duty by the extraordinary or even general exertions of their servants, to surmount the early difficulties of the first stages of the service. If the good government of this empire be the primary duty of its sovereign, it must ever be a leading branch of that duty to facilitate to the public officers and ministers the means of qualifying themselves for their respective functions: the efficiency of the service cannot be wisely or conscientiously left to depend on the success of individual or accidental merit, struggling against the defects of established in-

stitutions, operating in a regular and uninterrupted course upon the various characters, talents, and acquisitions of individuals. The nature of our establishments should furnish fixed and systematic encouragement to animate, to facilitate, to reward the progress of industry and virtue ; and fixed and systematic discipline to repress and correct the excesses of contrary dispositions.

30. From these remarks may be deduced the indispensable necessity of providing some speedy and effectual remedy for the improvement of the education of the young men, destined to the civil service in India. The nature of that remedy will afford matter of serious discussion.

31. It may, however, be useful, previous to that discussion, to advert to a general topic of argument, which may possibly be adduced to disprove the necessity of any new institution for the improvement of the civil service of the East India Company. It may be contended, that this service, through a long period of years, and in the course of various changes and chances, has always furnished men equal to the exigency of the occasion ; that servants of the Company have never been wanting to conduct, to a happy issue, the numerous revolutions which have taken place in the affairs of the Company in India ; and that these eminent personages have ultimately raised the British empire in India, on the most solid foundations of glory, wealth, and power. Why, therefore, should we apprehend, that the source hitherto so fruitful, and furnishing so abundant a stream of virtue and talents, will fail in the present age, and prove insufficient to the actual demands of our interests in this quarter of the globe ? The answer to this topic of argument is obvious : extraordinary combinations of human affairs, wars, revolutions,

and all those unusual events, which form the marked features and prominent characters of the history of mankind, naturally bring to light talents and exertions adapted to such emergencies. That the civil or military service of the East India Company has supplied persons calculated to meet all the wonderful revolutions of affairs in India, is a circumstance not to be attributed to the original or peculiar constitution of either service, at any period of time; that constitution has undergone repeated alterations, at the suggestion, and under the direction of the great characters which it has produced; and it has still been found answerable to every new crisis of an extraordinary nature. But it must never be forgotten, that the successive efforts of those eminent personages, and the final result of various revolutions and wars, have imposed upon the East India Company, the **ARDUOUS** and **SACRED TRUST** of GOVERNING AN **EXTENSIVE** and **POPULOUS EMPIRE**. It is true, that this empire must be maintained in some of its relations by the same spirit of enterprise and boldness, which acquired it. But duty, policy, and honour require that it should not be administered as a temporary and precarious acquisition; as an empire conquered by prosperous adventure, and extended by fortunate accident, of which the tenure is as uncertain as the original conquest, and successive extension were extraordinary; it must be considered as a **SACRED TRUST** and a **PERMANENT SUCCESSION**. In this view, its internal government demands a constant and steady, and regular supply of qualifications, in no degree similar to those which distinguished the early periods of our establishment in India, and laid the foundations of our empire. The stability of that empire, whose magnitude is the accumulated result of former enterprise, activity, and reso-

lution must be secured by the durable principles of internal order ; by a pure, upright, and uniform administration of justice ; by a prudent and temperate system of revenue ; by the encouragement and protection of industry, agriculture, manufacture, and commerce ; by a careful and judicious management of every branch of financial resource ; and by the maintenance of a just, firm, and moderate policy towards the native powers of India. To maintain and support such a system in all its parts, we shall require a succession of able magistrates, wise and honest judges, and skilful statesmen, properly qualified to conduct the ordinary movements of the great machine of government.

The military establishments of this empire form no part of the subject of this present enquiry. It may be sufficient to observe, in this place, that their extent, and the spirit in which they require to be governed, must correspond with the magnitude of the empire, and with the general character of our civil policy. In the civil service we must now seek, not the instruments by which kingdoms are overthrown, revolutions governed, or wars conducted, but an inexhaustible supply of useful knowledge, cultivated talents, and well ordered and disciplined morals ; these are the necessary instruments of a wise and well-regulated government ; these are the genuine and unfailing means of cultivating and improving the arts of peace, of diffusing affluence and happiness, willing obedience and grateful attachment over every region and district of this vast empire, and of dispensing to every class and description of our subjects, the permanent benefits of secure property, protected life, undisturbed order, and inviolate religion. It is not the nature of these

inestimable blessings to spring from a turbid source, or to flow in a contracted and irregular channel.

33. The early education of the civil servants of the East India Company is the source from which will ultimately be derived the happiness or misery of our native subjects ; and the stability of our government will bear a due proportion to its wisdom, liberality and justice.

III.

34. From the preceding discussion, it appears, that the actual state of the Company's civil service in India is far removed from perfection or efficiency, and that the cause of this defect is to be found principally, if not exclusively, in the defective education of the junior civil servants, and in the insufficient discipline of the early stages of the service. The facts which have been reviewed in the course of this discussion, furnish the main principles on which an improved system of education and discipline may be founded, with a view to secure the important ends of such an institution.

35. The defects of the present condition of the civil service may be comprised under the following heads :

First, An erroneous system of education in Europe, confined to commercial and mercantile studies.

Secondly, The premature interruption of a course of study judiciously commenced in Europe.

Thirdly, The exposed and destitute condition of young men on their first arrival in India, and the want of a systematic guidance and established authority to regulate and controul their moral and religious conduct in the early stages of the service.

Fourthly, The want of a similar system and authority to prescribe and enforce a regular course of study, under which the young men, upon their arrival in India, might

be enabled to correct the errors, or to pursue and confirm the advantages of their European education, and to attain a knowledge of the languages, laws, usages and customs of India, together with such other branches of knowledge, as are requisite to qualify them for their several stations.

Fifthly, The want of such regulations as shall establish a necessary and inviolable connection between promotion in the civil service, and the possession of those qualifications requisite for the due discharge of the several civil stations. **85134**

36. It is obvious, that an education exclusively European or Indian, would not afford an adequate remedy for such of these defects as relate to the morals and studies of the East India Company's servants, and would not qualify them for the discharge of duties of a mixed and complicated nature, involving the combined principles of Asiatic and European policy and government. Their education must therefore be of a mixed nature; its foundation must be judiciously laid in England, and the superstructure systematically completed in India.

37. An important question may arise, with respect to the proportion of time to be employed in that part of the education of the junior civil servants, which should be appropriated to England, and accomplished previously to their departure for India. It may be contended, that many of the enumerated evils may be precluded by not allowing the writers to proceed to India until they shall have attained a more advanced age than that at which they now usually embark, and by requiring them to undergo examinations in England, for the purpose of ascertaining their proficiency in the branches of knowledge necessary to the discharge of their duties in India.

38. To this arrangement various objections of a private, but most important nature will arise in the mind of every parent, who may have destined his children for India. To attain any considerable progress in the course of education and study described in this paper, must necessarily require the detention of the student in Europe to the age of twenty or twenty-two years ; many parents could not defray the expence of such an education in England, even if the other means of prosecuting it now existed, or could hereafter be provided at any school or college at home.

39. Other objections of a private nature might be stated against this plan ; but those which are founded on public considerations appear to be absolutely insurmountable. It is a fundamental principle of policy in the British establishments in the East Indies, that the views of the servants of the Company should terminate in the prospect of returning to England, there to enjoy the emoluments arising from a due course of active and honourable service in India.

40. Were the civil servants, instead of leaving England at the age of sixteen or seventeen, to be detained until the age of twenty or twenty-two, a great proportion of them must abandon all hope of returning with a moderate competence to their native country.

41. Remaining in England to this advanced age, many would form habits and connexions at home not to be relinquished at that period of life without great reluctance, and few would accommodate themselves, with readiness and facility, to the habits, regulations, and discipline of the service in India.

42. While these causes would render the civil servants untractable instruments in the hands of the government

of India, the regular progress through the service would also be retarded: twenty-five years may be taken as the period within which a civil servant may regularly acquire, with proper habits of economy, an independent fortune in India. Upon this calculation, before the most successful could hope to be in a situation to return to England, they would have attained an age, when many of the powerful affections and inducements, which now attract the servants of the company to return to their native country, would be greatly weakened, if not entirely extinguished.

43. At that age, many from necessity, and many probably from choice, would establish themselves permanently in India. It is unnecessary to detail the evil consequences which would result to the British interests in India, were such an habit to become general in the civil service.

44. Detention in England to the age of twenty or twenty-two years, would certainly afford the writers an opportunity of advancing their knowledge in the necessary branches of European study: but within that period of time, even in those branches, it could scarcely be completed; especially in the important sciences of general ethics and jurisprudence, (for how few understandings are equal to such a course of study previously to the age of twenty!) and it would be entirely defective in the essential point of connecting the principles of those sciences with the laws of India, and with the manners and usages of its inhabitants. No establishment formed in England would give a correct* practical knowledge of the lan-

* Sir William Jones was not intelligible to the natives of India (when he arrived at Calcutta,) in any of the oriental languages.

guages, laws, and customs of India, of the peculiar habits and genius of the people, of their mode of transacting business, and of the characteristic features of their vices or virtues. These most essential acquirements would therefore remain to be obtained after the arrival of the student in India, at an age when the study of languages is attended with additional difficulties, when any prescribed course of study, when any systematic discipline, or regular restraint, becomes irksome, if not intolerable. As the East India Company's servants would arrive in India at a period of life too far advanced to admit of subjection to any system of public discipline or controul, they must necessarily be left to the dictates of their own discretion, with regard to whatever part of their knowledge had been left incomplete in Europe.

45. The wants and expenses of individuals arriving in India at the age of twenty or twenty-two years, would greatly exceed the scale of the public allowances to the junior servants. At this age no restraint could be applied in India to their moral conduct, for the purpose of protecting them against the peculiar depravities incident to the climate, and to the character of the natives.

46. From the early age at which the writers are now usually sent to India, opportunity is afforded to the government, on the spot, of obtaining a knowledge of the characters of individuals, before they become eligible to stations of trust and importance. Of this advantage the government would be in a great degree deprived, if the East India Company's servants were all detained in England until the age of twenty or twenty-two. This inconvenience would prove nearly an insurmountable impediment to the important and necessary rule of selecting for

public office, those best qualified to discharge its duties with propriety and effect.

47. The junior civil servants must therefore continue to embark for India at the age of fifteen or sixteen, that they may be tractable instruments in the hands of the government of the country, that their morals and habits may be formed with proper safeguards against the peculiar nature of the views and characteristic dangers of Indian society; that they may be enabled to pass through the service before the vigour of life has ceased, and to return with a competent fortune to Europe, while the affections and attachments which bind them to their native country continue to operate with full force; and lastly, that they may possess regular, reasonable, and certain means of attaining the peculiar qualifications necessary for their stations.

48. Under all these circumstances the most deliberate and assiduous examination of all the important questions considered in this paper, determined the Governor-General to found a collegiate institution at Fort William by the annexed regulations.*

49. This regulation comprises all the fundamental principles of the institution. The detailed statutes for the internal discipline and good government of the college will be framed gradually as circumstances may require.

50. A common table and apartments are to be provided in the college, for all the civil servants who may be attached to the establishment.

51. The benefits of the establishment are extended to the junior civil servants of Fort St. George and Bombay, who will be directed to proceed to Fort William, as soon

* See the Regulations, Asiatic Register, Vol. II.

as the accommodations requisite for their reception shall have been provided.

52. This arrangement appeared in every respect preferable to the establishment of colleges, at both or either of those presidencies. Independent of the considerations of expense and other objections, and impediments to the foundation of such institutions at Fort St. George and Bombay, it is of essential importance that every branch of the civil service of the Company should be uniform, and should be conducted under the immediate superintendence of that authority, which is primarily responsible for the government of the whole of the British possessions in India, and which must consequently be most competent to judge of the nature and principles of the education which may be most expedient for the public interests. It may be expected that the operation of this part of the new institution will ultimately extinguish all local jealousies and prejudices among the several presidencies; the political, moral, and religious principles of all the British establishments in India, will then be derived directly from one common source; the civil service of Bengal is unquestionably farther advanced in every useful acquisition, and in every respect more regular and correct, than that of either of the subordinate presidencies; no more speedy or efficacious mode can be devised, of diffusing, throughout India, the laudable spirit of the service of Bengal, and of extending the benefit of improvements, which, under the new institution, may be expected to make a rapid progress at the seat of government, than by rendering Fort William the centre of the education and discipline of the junior civil servants in India.

53. Provision is made for admitting to the benefits of the institution, civil servants of a longer standing than three years, (on their making application for that purpose,) under such regulations as may be deemed advisable. The institution may prove highly beneficial to many servants of this description; as many of them will be received on the establishment, as its funds and other considerations may admit.

54. Provision is also made for extending the benefits of the institution, to as many of the junior military servants as it may be found practicable to admit from all the presidencies; essential benefits will result to the British armies in India, from the annual introduction of a number of young men well versed in the languages, with which every officer, but particularly those belonging to the native corps, ought to be acquainted: it is also of most essential importance to the army in India, that it should be composed of officers attached by regular instruction, and disciplined habits, to the principles of morality, good order, and subordination.

55. Further regulations are in the contemplation of the Governor-general, for the education of the cadets destined for the army in India, which will be connected intimately with the present foundation.

56. It cannot be denied that during the convulsions with which the doctrines of the French revolution have agitated the continent of Europe, erroneous principles of the same dangerous tendency had reached the minds of some individuals in the civil and military service, of the Company in India; and the state, as well of political, as religious opinions, had been in some degree unsettled: the progress of this mischief would at all times be aided by the defective and irregular education of the writers and

cadets ; an institution tending to fix and establish sound and correct principles of religion and government in their minds at an early period of life, is the best security that can be provided for the stability of the British power in India. The letter of the Court of Directors, under date the 25th of May 1798, has been constantly present to the Governor-General's mind; it is satisfactory to know, after the fullest consideration, that many apprehensions stated in that letter, appear to have been conceived with more force than is required by the actual state of any of the settlements in India.

57. But among other important advantages of the new institution, it will provide the most effectual and permanent remedy against the evils (as far as they existed) which it was the object of the orders of the honourable court, of the 25th of May 1798, to correct.

58. The situation of the junior servants on their early arrival in India, has been fully described in that paper; under the new institution they will be immediately received by the provost, a clergyman of the Church of England; they will be provided with apartments in the college, and with a common table; consequently they will be removed from the danger of profusion, extravagance, and excess. Every part of their private conduct, their expenses, their connections, their manners and morals, will be subject to the notice of the provost, and principal officers of the college, and (through the collegiate authorities) to the government itself.

59. While attached to the institution, the junior servants will have the most ample means afforded them of completing the European branch of their education, or of correcting its defects; of acquiring whatever local knowledge may be necessary for that department of the

service, in which (after mature reflection on their own inclinations and talents) they may determine to engage ; of forming their manners, and of fixing their principles on the solid foundations of virtue and religion.

60. The acquirements, abilities, and moral character of every civil servant may be ascertained before he can be eligible to a public station ; and every selection of persons, for high and important offices, may be made under a moral certainty that the public expectation cannot be disappointed.

61. The 24th clause of the regulation will afford the foundation of a law, which may at all times secure the civil service against the effects of the possible partiality or ignorance of any government.

62. It is intended that the allowance of every civil servant, of less than three years standing, being a student in the college, should be brought to one standard of 300 rupees per month, without any allowance for a moon-shee,

63. As a table and apartments will be provided for the students, this allowance will place them in a better situation than any writer of the same standing now enjoys.— With these advantages, under the control of the official authorities of the college, and with the benefit of their advice and admonition, aided by statutes for the prevention of extravagance and debt, it may be hoped, that many young men will adopt early habits of economy, and will lay the foundations of honest independence, at a much earlier period than is now practicable. This advantage will be considerable in every view, in none more than as it will tend to contract the period of each servant's residence in India, to give a nearer prospect of return to England, and to keep that desirable object more constantly in view.

64. The discipline of the college will be as moderate as can be consistent with the ends of the institution. It will impose no harsh or humiliating restraint, and will be formed on principles combining the discipline of the Universities in England with that of the Royal Military Academics in France, and of other European monarchies.

* 65. It may be expected that the great majority of young men, on their arrival in India, will eagerly embrace the opportunities afforded to them by this institution, of laying the foundations of private character, of public reputation, and of early independence. It cannot be supposed, that many will be so insensible to their own honour and interests, and so destitute of every liberal feeling and sentiment, as not to prefer the proposed course of studies in the college, to the menial labour now imposed upon them, of transcribing papers in an office, where, in the nature of their duty, they are levelled with the native and Portuguese clerks, although infinitely inferior in its execution.

66. Those young men, who may not at the first view discover all the advantages to be derived from the institution, will soon improve by the example and communication of others; if any individual should continue insensible to the calls of public duty, and of private reputation, (and it is of importance that persons of this description should be known, before an opportunity has been afforded to them of injuring the public interests by their vices and defects,) the public good will demand, that they should be punished by neglect and exclusion from employment. Considering the liberal manner in which the servants of the Company are rewarded for their services, the public may justly insist on submission

to whatever regulation may be prescribed by this institution.

67. The excitements to exertion being as powerful, as the consequences of contrary habits will be ruinous, instances of gross neglect or contumacy, will rarely occur. In this respect the institution possesses peculiar advantages, and it will become a powerful instrument in the hands of the government in India, who will be enabled thereby to bring the general character of the servants of the Company to such a standard of perfection as the public interests require. To every other inducement, which any collegiate institution in the world can supply for the encouragement of diligence, will be added the immediate view of official promotion, increase of fortune, and distinction in the public service.

68. If it be asked, whether it is proper that the whole time of the junior servants, for the first three years of their residence in India, should be devoted to study in the college, and that the Company should lose the benefit of their services during that period, while the junior servants receive a salary?

69. It may be inquired on the other hand, what is now the occupation of the civil servants for the three first years after their arrival in India? What benefit the Company now derive from the services of the junior servants during that period? And what in general are now the characters and qualifications of those servants at the expiration of that period? In all these questions, sufficient answers have been given in the preceding pages. Further details respecting the nature of the institution, will be forwarded officially to the Court of Directors at an early period.

70. The reasons which induced the Governor-General to found the College, without any previous reference to England, were these:—His conviction of the great immediate benefit to be derived from the early commencement even of the partial operation of the plan. His experience of the great advantages which had been already derived by many of the young men by their attendance on Mr. Gilchrist, in consequence of the first experiment made on a contracted scale, with a view to a more extended institution. His anxiety to impart to the very promising young men, arrived from Europe, within these last three years, a share of the advantages described in this paper; and his solicitude to superintend the foundation of the institution, and to accelerate and witness its first effects.

71. This institution will be best appreciated by every affectionate parent in the hour of separation from his child, destined to the public service in India. Let any parent (especially if he has himself passed through the Company's service in India) declare, whether the prospect of this institution has aggravated or mitigated the solicitude of that painful hour; whether it has raised additional doubts and fears, or inspired a more lively hope of the honourable and prosperous service, of the early and fortunate return of his child.

72. With regard to the funds for defraying the expense of the institution, the Governor-General does not intend, without the sanction of the honourable Court of Directors, to subject the Company to any expense on account of the institution, beyond that which has already received their sanction independently of the institution.

73. The honourable court have authorised this government to purchase the writers buildings if they can be

obtained on advantageous terms; these buildings cannot be obtained on such terms; nor can they be advantageously converted to the final purposes of the institution—a sum equal to the just value of the buildings, or to the rent now paid for them, will be applied towards the purchase of a proper spot of ground, and to the buildings requisite for the College.

74. The ground proposed to be employed, is situated in the Garden Reach, where three or four of the present gardens will be laid together, a new road formed, and a large space of ground cleared and drained. This arrangement will improve the general health of the neighbourhood of Calcutta, as well as afford ample room for every accommodation required for the use of the College, or for the health of the students.

75. The expenses of the institution will be provided for by a small contribution from all the civil servants in India, to be deducted from their salaries. This resource will probably be sufficient for all present purposes, with the addition of the fund now applied to the moonshee's allowance, and of the profits to be derived from a new arrangement of the government printing press.

76. The Governor-General has not deemed it proper, in the first instance, to subject the Company to any additional expense on account of the institution. The honourable the Court of Directors will, however, reflect, that this institution is calculated to **EXTEND** the **BLESSINGS** OF **GOOD GOVERNMENT** to the **MANY MILLIONS** OF **PEOPLE** whom **PROVIDENCE** has **SUBJECTED** to **OUR DOMINIONS**; to perpetuate the immense advantages now derived by the Company from their possessions in India, and to establish the British empire in India, on the solid foundations of ability, integrity, virtue, and religion. The

approved liberality of the honourable Court, will, therefore, certainly be manifested towards this institution, to an extent commensurate to its importance. It would produce a most salutary impression on India, if the Court, immediately on receiving this regulation, were to order the Governor-General in Council to endow the College with an annual rent-charge on the revenues of Bengal, and to issue a similar order to the Governor in Council of Fort St. George, with respect to the revenue of Mysore, leaving the amount of the endowment upon each fund to the Governor-General in Council.

77. All those who feel any concern in the support of the British interests in India, and especially those whose fortunes have been acquired in the service of the Company, or whose connections may now or hereafter look to this service for advancement, will undoubtedly contribute to the support of the institution; under the auspices of the Court it is hoped, that a large sum might be raised by subscription in Europe. The Governor-General considered the College at Fort William to be the most becoming public monument which the East India Company could raise to commemorate the conquest of Mysore; he has accordingly dated the law for the foundation of the College on the 4th May, 1800, the first anniversary of the reduction of Seringapatam.

78. The early attention of the Governor-General will be directed to the Mahommedan College founded at Calcutta, and to the Hindû College established at Benares. In the disorder which preceded the fall of the Mogul empire and the British conquests in India, all the public institutions calculated to promote education and good morals, were neglected, and at length entirely discontinued. The institutions at Calcutta and Benares, may

be made the means of aiding the study of the laws and languages in the College at Fort William, as well as of correcting the defective moral principles too generally prevalent among the natives of India.

79. An establishment of moonshees and native teachers of the languages, under the control of the collegiate officers at Fort William, will be attached to the new college, and the young men will be supplied from this establishment, instead of being left, (as at present) to exercise their own discretion, in hiring such moonshees as they can find at Calcutta, or in the provinces.

80. The arrangement respecting the native colleges, while they contribute to the happiness of our native subjects, will qualify them to form a more just estimate of the mild and benevolent spirit of the British government.

81. In selecting the Garden Reach for the site of the buildings for the new college, two objects were in the contemplation of the Governor-General :

First, That the ordinary residence of the students should be so near that of the Governor-General, as that he may have the constant means of superintending the whole system and discipline of the institution. The distance of fifteen or sixteen miles, in this climate, would often embarrass the communication.

Secondly, That the college should be removed some distance from the town of Calcutta. The principle of this object is sufficiently intelligible without further explanation : it is, however, desirable that the college should not be so remote from Calcutta as to preclude the young men from all intercourse with the society of that city : advantages may be derived from a regulated intercourse with the higher classes of that society ; the Gar-

den Reach combines these advantages with many others, of space and accommodation. The situation of the writers buildings is objectionable, on account of their being placed in the centre of the town ; nor could it have been practicable in that situation (even if the writers buildings could have been purchased upon reasonable terms) to have obtained an area of ground sufficiently spacious for the new building.

82. As it will require a considerable time before the new building in Garden Reach can be completed, it is intended in the mean while to continue to occupy the writers buildings, and to hire such additional buildings in the neighbourhood as may be required for the temporary accommodation of the students and officers of the college, for the library, the dining hall, the lecture rooms, and other purposes ; it will be necessary to make some considerable purchases of books for the foundation of the library ; the Governor-general will effect whatever purchases can be made with economy and advantage in India ; lists of books will be transmitted to England by an early opportunity, with a view to such purchases as it may be necessary to make in Europe : and the Governor-general entertains no doubt that the Court of Directors will contribute liberally towards such purchases. That part of the library of the late Tippoo Sultaun, which was presented by the army to the Court of Directors, is lately arrived in Bengal ; the Governor-general strongly recommends, that the oriental manuscripts composing this collection, should be deposited in the library of the college at Fort William, and it is his intention to retain the manuscripts accordingly, until he shall receive the orders of the court upon the subject : he will transmit lists of the collection by the first opportunity.

83. It is obvious, that these manuscripts may be rendered highly useful to the purposes of the new institution, and that much more public advantage can be derived from them in the library of the college at Fort William, than can possibly be expected from depositing them in London.

84. Such of the manuscript as may appear merely valuable as curiosities, may be transmitted to England by an early opportunity.

85. It is the intention of the Governor-general that the first term of the college should be opened in the course of the month of November, and the lectures in several of the languages may, it is hoped, be commenced in the course of the ensuing winter.

86. With the aid of temporary arrangement as may be immediately made, it is expected that many other branches of the institution may be brought into immediate operation, particularly those which relate to expenses, morals, and general studies of the young men. Fortunately for the objects of the institution, the Governor-general has found at Calcutta, two clergymen of the Church of England, eminently qualified to discharge the duties of provost and vice provost. To the former office he has appointed Mr. Brown, the company's first chaplain, and to the latter Mr. Buchanan. Mr. Brown's character must be well known in England, and particularly so to some members of the Court of Directors; it is in every respect such as to satisfy the Governor-general, that his views, in this nomination, will not be disappointed. He has also formed the highest expectations from the abilities, learning, temper, and morals of Mr. Buchanan, whose character is also well known in England, and particularly to Dr. Porteus, bishop of London,

and to Dr. Milner, master of Queen's College, in the University of Cambridge. With respect to the professorships; those which relate to the languages will be best filled in India, and the Governor-general entertains little doubt that he shall soon be able to fill them permanently in an efficient manner; in the mean while, the most laudable zeal has been manifested by such persons in the civil and military service as are competent to assist the Governor-general in making a temporary provision for the discharge of the duties of these professorships. The persons properly qualified to fill certain of the other professorships must be sought in Europe. The institution will be so framed as to offer strong inducements to such persons, and the Governor-general will endeavour at the earliest period to secure the assistance of talents, learning and morals from Europe, adapted to the great purposes of this institution. It may be useful to observe, in this place, that the professors and native moonshees, or teachers, will be prohibited from instructing any other persons than the students of the college; the object of this regulation is to prevent European parents, resident in India, from attempting to commence or complete, by means of the new institution, the regular education of their children in India: it is an OBVIOUSLY NECESSARY PRINCIPLE OF POLICY TO ENCOURAGE the PRESENT PRACTICE of SENDING CHILDREN BORN in INDIA, of European parents, at an early age, to EUROPE FOR EDUCATION.

87. The Governor-general means to recommend, that the Court of Directors should hereafter nominate all persons destined for the civil service at any of the presidencies in India, to be students at the college at Fort William: to each studentship (as has been already observed)

will be annexed a monthly salary of 300 rupees, together with apartments and a common table. It will be for the honourable court to decide, whether the ultimate destination of the student to the civil establishment of Bengal, Fort St. George, or Bombay, shall be specified in the original appointment to the studentship at the college at Fort William. It would certainly be more advantageous to the public service, that no such appointments should be made in England, and that the ultimate destination of each student should be determined in India, under the authority of government, on the spot, according to the inclinations and acquirements of the students respectively. The improved state of the civil service at Fort St. George, and the indispensable necessity for introducing the same improvements into the service at Bombay, will speedily render the civil service, at each of those presidencies, no less advantageous and respectable than that of Bengal.

88. The Governor-general highly applauds the wisdom of the late order of the Court, regulating the rank of the cadets for the artillery, according to the period of time when they may be respectively reported to be qualified for commissions, under the institution of the academy at Woolwich. It would be a most beneficial regulation to declare, that the rank of all students appointed to the college at Fort William, in the same season, should be regulated according to their respective progress in the prescribed studies of the college, and to the public testimonials of their respective merit, established according to the discipline and institution of the college.

89. If the Court of Directors should approve the principles and objects of this institution, and should accord-

ingly order the Governor-general to endow it with a rent-charge upon the land revenue of Bengal and Mysore, it would be a gracious act to relieve the civil service from the tax which the Governor-general intends to impose on the public salaries for the support of the college. The tax will indeed be very light; but the Court of Directors may probably be of opinion, that such an institution as the present ought to be supported rather by the MUNIFICENCE of the SOVEREIGN of the country, than by any diminution, however small, of the established allowances of the public officers.

Fort William, Aug. 18, 1800.



A. D. 1800.—Regulation.

A REGULATION for the *Foundation of a COLLEGE at Fort William in Bengal, and for the better Instruction of the JUNIOR CIVIL SERVANTS of the Honourable the ENGLISH EAST INDIA COMPANY, in the important Duties belonging to the several arduous stations to which the said Junior Civil Servants may be respectively destined in the Administration of Justice, and in the general Government of the British Empire in India.*—Passed by the Governor-General in Council, on the 10th July 1800; corresponding with the 28th Assar, 1207 Bengal era; the 4th Sawun, 1207 Fussily; the 28th Assar, 1207 Willaity; the 4th Sawun, 1857 Sambut; and the 17th Suffer, 1215 Hejrah;—But, by his Lordship's special order, bearing date on the 4th of May, 1800, being the first Anniversary of the glorious and decisive Victory obtained by British Arms at Seringapatam, the Capital of the kingdom of Mysore.

I. WHEREAS it hath pleased Divine Providence to favour the counsels and arms of Great Britain in India with a continued course of prosperity and glory; and whereas, by the victorious issue of several successive wars, and by the happy result of a just, wise, and moderate system of policy, extensive territories in Hindustan and in the Deccan have been subjected to the dominion of Great Britain, and under the government of the Honourable

the English East India Company, in process of time a great and powerful empire has been founded, comprehending many populous and opulent provinces, and various nations, differing in religious persuasions, in language, manners, and habits, and respectively accustomed to be governed according to peculiar usages, doctrines and laws; and whereas the sacred duty, true interest, honour and policy of the British Nation require that effectual provision should be made at all times for the good government of the British empire in India, and for the prosperity and happiness of the people inhabiting the same; and many wise and salutary regulations have accordingly been enacted from time to time by the Governor-General in Council, with the benevolent intent and purpose of administering to the said people their own laws, usages and customs, in the mild and benignant spirit of the British Constitution; and whereas it is indispensably necessary, with a view to secure the due execution and administration of the said wise, salutary, and benevolent regulations in all time to come, as well as of such regulations and laws as may hereafter be enacted by the Governor-General in Council, that the civil servants of the Honourable the English East India Company, exercising high and important functions in the government of India, should be properly qualified to discharge the arduous duties of their respective offices and stations, should be sufficiently instructed in the general principles of literature and science, and should possess a competent knowledge, as well of the laws, government and constitution of Great Britain, as of the several native languages of Hindustan and the Deccan, and of the laws, usages and customs of the provinces which the said civil servants respectively may be appointed to govern; and

whereas the early interruption in Europe of the education and studies of the persons destined for the civil service of the Honourable the English East India Company, precludes them, from acquiring, previously to their arrival in India, a sufficient foundation in the general principles of literature and science, or a competent knowledge of the laws, government and constitutions of Great Britain, and many qualifications essential to the proper discharge of the arduous and important duties of the civil service in India, cannot be fully obtained otherwise than by a regular course of education and study in India, conducted under the superintendence, direction, and control of the supreme authority of the government of these possessions : and whereas no public institution now exists in India under which the junior servants, appointed at an early period of life to the service of the Honourable the English East India Company, can attain the necessary means of qualifying themselves for the high and arduous trusts to which they are respectively destined ; and no system of discipline or education has been established in India for the purpose of directing and regulating the studies of the said junior servants, or of guiding their conduct upon their first arrival in India, or of forming, improving or preserving their morals, or of encouraging them to maintain the honour of the British name in India, by a regular and orderly course of industry, prudence, integrity, and religion. The Most Noble RICHARD, MARQUIS WELLESLEY, Knight of the Illustrious Order of Saint Patrick, &c. &c. Governor-General in Council, deeming the establishment of such an institution, and system of discipline, education and study, to be requisite for the good government and stability of the British Empire in India, and for the maintenance of the interest and

honour of the Honourable the East India Company; his Lordship in Council hath therefore enacted as follows :

II. A College is hereby founded at Fort William in Bengal, for the better instruction of the junior civil servants of the Company, in such branches of literature, science, and knowledge, as may be deemed necessary to qualify them for the discharge of the duties of the different offices constituted for the administration of the government of the British possessions in the East Indies.

III. A suitable building shall be erected for the College, containing apartments for the superior officers, for the students, for a library, and for such other purposes as may be found necessary.

IV. The Governor-General shall be the Patron and Visitor of the College.

V. The Members of the Supreme Council, and the Judges of the Sudder Dewanny Adawlut, and of the Nizam Adawlut, shall be the Governors of the College.

VI. The Governor-General in Council shall be Trustee for the management of the Funds of the College; and shall regularly submit his proceedings, in that capacity, to the Honourable the Court of Directors.

VII. The Comptrolling Committee of Treasury shall be Treasurers of the College.

VIII. The Accountant-General, and the Civil Auditor, shall be respectively Accountant, and Auditor of Accounts, of the College.

IX. The Advocate-General, and the Honourable Company's standing Council, shall be the Law Officers of the College.

X. The immediate government of the College shall be vested in a Provost and Vice-Provost, and such other officers as the Patron and Visitor shall think proper to

appoint, with such salaries as he shall deem expedient. The Provost, Vice-Provost, and all other officers of the College, shall be removable at the discretion of the Patron and Visitor.

XI. The Provost shall always be a clergyman of the Church of England, as established by law.

XII. Every proceeding and act of the Patron and Visitor shall be submitted to the Honourable the Court of Directors, and shall be subjected to their pleasure.

XIII. The primary duties of the Provost shall be to receive the junior civil servants on their first arrival at Fort William; to superintend and regulate their general morals and conduct; to assist them with his advice and admonition; and to instruct and confirm them in the principles of the Christian religion, according to the doctrine, discipline, and rites of the Church of England, as established by law.

XIV. The Patron and Visitor shall establish such Professorships with such endowments as shall be thought proper.

XV. Professorships shall be established as soon as may be practicable, and regular Courses of Lectures commenced in the following branches of literature, science, and knowledge:

LANGUAGES.—Arabic, Persian, Sanscrit, Hindustanee,

Bengal, Telinga, Mahratta, Tamula, Canara.

Mahommedan Law.

Hindu Law.

Ethics, Civil Jurisprudence, and the Law of Nations.

English Law.

The Regulations and Laws enacted by the Governor-General in Council, or by the Governors in Council

at Fort St. George and Bombay respectively, for the Civil Government of the British territories in India. Political Economy, and particularly the Commercial Institutions and Interests of the East India Company.

Geography and Mathematics.

Modern Languages of Europe.

Greek, Latin, and English Classics.

General History, ancient and modern.

The History and Antiquities of Hindustan, and the Deccan.

Natural History.

Botany, Chemistry, and Astronomy.

XVI. The Patron and Visitor may authorise the same Professor to read lectures in more than one of the enumerated branches of study, and may at any time unite or separate any of the said professorships, or may found additional professorships in such other branches of study as may appear necessary.

XVII. The Provost and Vice-Provost, after having remained in the government of the College for the complete period of seven years, and any Professor, after having read lectures in the College for the complete period of seven years, or of twenty-eight terms, and after having respectively received, under the hand and seal of the Patron and Visitor, a testimonial of good conduct during that period of time, shall be entitled to an annual pension for life, to be paid either in Europe or in India, according to the option of the party. The pension shall in no case be less than one-third of the annual salary received by such Provost or Vice-Provost respectively during his continuance in the government of the College, or by any such Professor during the period

of his regular lectures. The pension may in any case be increased at the discretion of the Patron or Visitor.

XVIII. All the civil servants of the Company, who may be hereafter appointed on the establishment of the Presidency of Bengal, shall be attached to the College for the first three years after their arrival in Bengal; and, during that period of time, the prescribed studies in the College shall constitute their sole public duty.

XIX. All the civil servants now on the establishment of the Presidency of Bengal, whose residence in Bengal shall not have exceeded the term of three years, shall be immediately attached to the College for the term of three years from the date of this regulation.

XX. Any of the junior civil servants of the Company in India, whether belonging to the establishment of this Presidency, or to that of Fort St. George, or of Bombay, may be admitted to the benefits of the institution, by order of the Governor-General in Council, for such term, and under such regulations, as may be deemed advisable.

XXI. Any of the junior military servants of the Company in India, whether belonging to the establishment of this Presidency, or to that of Fort St. George, or of Bombay, may be admitted to the benefits of the institution, by order of the Governor-General in Council, for such term, and under such regulations, as may be deemed advisable.

XXII. In the College at Fort William, four terms shall be observed in each year; the duration of each term shall be two months. Four vacations shall also be established in each year; the duration of each vacation shall be one month.

XXIII. Two public examinations shall be holden an-

nually, and prizes and honorary rewards shall be publicly distributed by the Provost, in the presence of the Patron and Governors, to such students as shall appear to merit them.

XXIV. Degrees shall be established, and shall be rendered requisite qualifications for certain offices in the civil governments of Bengal, Fort St. George, and Bombay; and promotion in the civil service shall be the necessary result of merit publicly approved, according to the discipline and institutions of the College.

XXV. Statutes shall be framed by the Provost of the College, under the superintendence of the Governors of the College, respecting the internal regulation, discipline, and government of the College; but no statute shall be enforced until it shall have been sanctioned by the Patron and Visitor. The statutes so sanctioned shall be printed according to a form to be prescribed by the Patron and Visitor.

XXVI. The Patron and Visitor shall be empowered, at all times, of his sole and exclusive authority, to amend or abrogate any existing statute, or to enact any new statute for the regulation, discipline, and government of the College.

XXVII. A regular statement of all salaries, appointments, or removals of the officers of the College, shall be submitted by the Patron and Visitor of the College, at the expiration of each term, to the Governor-General in Council, and by the Governor-General in Council to the Hon. the Court of Directors; printed copies of all statutes enacted by the Patron and Visitor, shall also be submitted to the Governor-General in Council, and to the Hon. the Court of Directors, at the same period of time, and in the same manner.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,
*
SEPARATE.

*To our Governor-General in Council, at Fort William,
in Bengal.*

Par. 1. We have long had under our consideration, the plan and reasons of Marquis Wellesley for the establishment of a College at Fort William. Although we feel and acknowledge the just merits of the Marquis in the conception of the plan, which breathes a liberal and enlightened spirit, and is enforced with great ability; yet, in the present situation of the Company's affairs, with a debt in India beyond all former amount, and a scarcity of money there beyond all former experience, in consequence of which public credit is depressed, and the investments have either been reduced, or wholly suspended, we cannot, consistently with our duty, sanction; by our approbation, the immediate establishment of an institution, however we may approve of some parts of it, which must involve the Company in an expense of considerable and unknown amount, and which might be applied to purposes more beneficial for the Company's interests.

2. It has been customary, in considerable undertakings of this nature, previously to form an estimate of the cost, which should have been done on the present occasion, to have enabled us to form a correct idea of the extent and expense of the undertaking.

3. We have perused with particular attention the Governor-general's reasons for founding the College, without any previous reference to us upon the subject. We allow his motives to be laudable; but we cannot sanction a departure from our established system; the tendency of all such deviations is to weaken the authority which is constitutionally placed in this country; for, when measures are once adopted, which either pledge the faith of government, or incur great expense, the exercise of control, in such cases, is in effect frustrated on all important occasions. In future you must, therefore, consider an observance of this system as a primary obligation of duty.

4. Without entering into a particular discussion of the Governor-general's plan, we cannot avoid remarking, that it embraces, in our opinion, more than the situation and circumstances of the Company can at present justify.

5. An establishment founded on principles similar to that proposed by Mr. Gilchrist, in December, 1798, for the institution of a seminary for oriental learning on a somewhat enlarged scale, we are of opinion would effect many of the beneficial purposes expected by the Governor-general from the establishment proposed by him; and we are the more grounded in this opinion, from the result of the examination of the gentlemen who had studied in the seminary, and which took place in June, 1800, before a committee appointed to ascertain the progress made in their acquirements, in the Hindustani

tanee and Persian languages; from whence it appears, that the students in general manifested such a proficiency as to entitle them to the fullest approbation of the committee; and some of them so much so, as to have greatly exceeded the committee's expectations;---we therefore direct, that you take into consideration the re-establishment of this seminary, which we think may be successfully conducted without any considerable expense to the Company.

6. Although in our letter of the 7th of May, 1800, we approved of the institution proposed by Mr. Gilchrist, and the Governor-general's intention of extending this arrangement on a larger scale, we had no idea that his Lordship's views went to such an extensive establishment as that detailed in his minute of August, 1800: we only then meant to sanction the principles on which Mr. Gilchrist's seminary was instituted, as leading to the acquirement of a more intimate and general knowledge of the common Hindustanee, or colloquial dialect, and of a classical acquaintance with the Persian language. With these studies, it appeared to have been the Governor-general's intention to introduce into the seminary, that of the laws and regulation enacted by the Governor-general in council for the government of our Indian territories: a thorough acquaintance with which we deem indispensably necessary, and which, with the acquirements above stated, will, in our opinion, be attended with the best effects, in qualifying persons in our service for the discharge of their duties, especially if they have received an education in Europe, suitable to the sphere of life in which they are intended to move.

7. An intimate acquaintance with the languages of the country, and a competent knowledge of the laws and

regulations before stated, are, in our opinion, most essential qualifications, and indeed indispensable for the conduct of public business in every department of our government. Of three languages current on the Bengal side of India, the Persian and Hindustanee are necessary for the transaction of business in all offices; with respect to the Bengalese, or provincial language, as a large portion of the revenues is levied on the natives of Bengal, and as their arithmetic is particularly adapted to all the uses to which accounts are applied, and as the language is exclusively spoken by the mass of the people, we conceive that the knowledge of it will be found indispensably requisite to the provincial collectors; nor less so to the civil judges. Such of our servants, therefore, as do not apply to the acquisition of the Bengalese dialect, must submit to consider themselves precluded from holding offices where a knowledge of that dialect is indispensable.

8. Thus educated and instructed, and with the foundation of an improved education in Europe, our servants will enter upon those subordinate offices which they are, by act of parliament, competent to hold, and with advantages which their predecessors never enjoyed; and with a strict attention on the part of our government to enforce the established regulations, and to stimulate industry and exertion, by selecting for promotion such servants as shall distinguish themselves by their superior talents and application; the Company will never, we are convinced, want a succession of servants well qualified for the administration of their affairs in the different departments of government.

9. As it is our intention, by the re-establishment of Mr. Gilchrist's seminary, to supersede for the present

the New Collegiate Institution proposed by Marquis Wellesley, all expenses hitherto incurred on that account will of course immediately cease, and the students from the other presidencies be returned thither by the first convenient opportunities that may offer, after the receipt of this letter. And we cannot dismiss this subject without repeating our high approbation of the public spirit and conspicuous talents of Marquis Wellesley, in the conception and arrangement of a plan, which, under other circumstances of the Company's finances, we should have thought deserving of the most serious consideration.

10. We are pleased to observe, that it was the design of the Governor-general to bestow an early attention upon the state of the Mahommedan college founded in Calcutta, and the Hindu college established at Benares; no institution of that nature, in countries the most enlightened, can be preserved from degenerating without constant inspection. It was appointed in the Hindu college, that annual lectures should be delivered by the professors, and that those lectures, so far as they were on communicable subjects, should be given to the Visitors. In consequence hereof, so long ago as the year 1793, (in the revenue letter of the 25th of June) we required that translations of those lectures might be annually transmitted to us, and also that an annual report should be made to us of the state of the college, and how far it was likely to answer the ends of its institution. To this day we do not find that any communication of this nature has been forwarded to us, which must be owing to a blameable inattention at Benares; whither, doubtless, our orders were transmitted by the supreme government.

11. It is now full time that a review should be taken, as

proposed by the Governor-general, not only of the state, but of the utility derived from those institutions. The one has existed twenty years, and the other nearly ten; and it is a pleasure to us to reflect, that the just principles and enlightened views of marquis Wellesley, will so well qualify him to perform this task.

London, January 27th, 1802.

LETTER

FROM

MARQUIS WELLESLEY

TO THE

CHAIRMAN OF THE COURT OF DIRECTORS,

IN CONSEQUENCE OF THEIR HAVING

ORDERED THE COLLEGE TO BE ABOLISHED:

Dated August 5th, 1802.

TO THE CHAIRMAN.

SIR,

1. On the 15th of June, the Governor-general in council received, with the deepest regret and concern, the commands of the Court of Directors, for the immediate abolition of the institution established at Fort William, on the 4th of May, 1800, under the name of the College at Fort William.

2. Although neither the present time, nor the nature of this conveyance, admits of an official reply from the Governor-general in council to the letter of the honourable court, I am anxious to avail myself of the earliest

opportunity of submitting to the court a general view of the principles, by which my conduct has been regulated, and of the measures which I have pursued on this most painful and afflicting occasion.

8. For the purpose of explaining my proceedings in the most distinct manner, it is necessary to advert to the impressions under which the letter of the honourable court appears to have been written, to the supposed facts therein stated, to the inferences therein drawn from that statement, to the sentiments expressed by the honourable court, with regard to the principles and objects of the institution of the college, and to the nature and necessary operation of the orders for its immediate abolition.

4. The letter of the court appears to have been written under an apprehension of the existence of a considerable embarrassment in the situation of the Company's financial affairs in India; and the primary grounds of the honourable court, are stated to be the unexampled amount of the debt, the unparalleled scarcity of money in India, the consequent depression of public credit, and the reduction or total suspension of the commercial investment.

5. The statements of account furnished by this dispatch, and the general tenor of the official advices from this presidency, for the last nine months, will satisfy the honourable court,—

That the augmentation of the resources of the Company in India, has at least kept pace with the growth of the debt;

That the surplus revenue of India, applicable to investment in the current year, amounts to nearly one million sterling; a sum greatly exceeding the amount of surplus revenue applicable to the same purpose in the year 1798-9;

That no such scarcity of money now exists in India, as to depress public credit?

That public credit is now in a state much more favourable than that which existed in 1798-9, or in any year since that time,—and that the general condition of affairs justifies a confident expectation of a progressive improvement in the state of public credit;

That the investment of Bengal, for the current year, is allotted on the high scale of a full investment, or ninety lacs of Sicca rupees;

That the investment of Madras, for the same season, is allotted on the high scale of sixteen and half lacs of pagodas;

That the investment of Bombay, for the same season, is allotted on the scale ordered by the honourable court, of fifteen lacs of rupees;

That no apprehension exists of any probable necessity for reducing the scale of the investments in the ensuing season, and that every circumstance in our situation warrants the assurance, that the investments at all the presidencies will be continued during the continuance of peace, on the scale of the current year;

That, from the combined result of reduction of charges (principally military) and of augmentation of resources, the financial affairs of the honourable Company in India are actually relieved from embarrassment; and that the state of political security established in India, and the prospect of a progressive augmentation in our resources, and of a further gradual reduction of our military charges, afford a rational certainty, that the finances of the Company in India will continue to improve; and that public credit will speedily attain the utmost degree

of prosperity, under circumstances which will ensure its stability.

6. The letter, of the court, paragraph 1st. states, that the institution of the college must involve the Company in an expense of considerable and unknown amount; and that this expense might be applied to purposes more beneficial for the Company's interests.

7. The magnitude of the expense of this institution, cannot be justly estimated otherwise than by examining its purposes, objects, and actual, or probable effect; and by comparing the pressure of that expense on the finances of the Company in India, with the proportionate benefit to be derived from the operation of the institution on the whole frame of the government of this empire.

8. If the extent of this benefit should prove answerable to the purposes and intentions of the institution, it might be difficult to fix the precise amount of the price at which it would be consistent with the Company's interests to purchase such a benefit: and it appears still more difficult to conceive any purposes to which money could be applied with more benefit to the Company's interests in India.

9. Prudence would forbid your government in India to incur any expense of considerable and unknown amount, in any branch of the Company's affairs; nor can I imagine any principle of calculation, by which a probable estimate can be formed of the advantage to be derived to the Company's interests, by applying a sum of considerable and unknown amount to any purpose in India.

10. The beneficial application of any sum of money, must be estimated by a comparison between the known

amount of the sum to be expended, and the certain or probable benefit to be attained by such expenditure.

11. But the sum of money applied to defray the charges of this institution, is neither indefinite nor unknown, nor considerable, with relation to the magnitude and importance of its objects and actual effect, nor applicable, with equal prospects of success, to any purposes more beneficial to the interests of the Company.

12. The expense of the institution, in its commencement, was necessarily more considerable than it would have proved hereafter, when the whole system and discipline of the college should have been reduced to regular order. The estimate for 1802-3, is four* lacs of rupees: and it is not probable that this sum would have been exceeded, as the current charges of the college are now fully ascertained, and the mode of managing the institution, in all its branches, is now thoroughly understood.

13. In the time which has elapsed since the institution of the college, many expenses have been incurred, which will not again be requisite; the total expense incurred on account of the college, in the first year of its institution, ending on the 31st of October, 1801, amounted to the sum of about six† lacs, and thirty thousand rupees; after deducting all disposable articles of stock on hand, the value of which amounted, on the 31st of October, 1801, to about two‡ lacs, and seventy thousand rupees.

14. I have stated that the future current annual charges of the college are estimated at four lacs§ of rupees.

* 48,000*l.* † 76,000*l.* ‡ 34,000*l.* § 48,000*l.*

From this sum, however, some deductions are to be made, on account of certain expenses which existed previously to the institution of the college, and which must equally have been incurred, if the college had not been established. These articles are principally the former allowance for moonshees, and the rent of the writers buildings. The aggregate amount of these deductions would be about 70,000 rupees, leaving the total additional annual expense to the Company, on account of the current charges of the college, at the sum of three* lacs, and thirty thousand rupees.

15. As all the students receive an equal allowance of three hundred rupees per mensem, the expense of the increased allowance to the writers attached to the college, from the establishments of Fort St. George and Bombay, would be nearly balanced by the reduction of the allowances of such writers of Bengal, attached to the college, as have completed a residence of two years in the service in India.

16. The expense of conveying the writers from the subordinate presidencies to Bengal, would cease, if the court should agree to my proposition for sending, in the first instance, directly from Europe, to the college of Fort William, all the writers destined for the service of the Company in India.

17. But the Governor-General in Council has already apprised the court, in his letter of 30th July, 1801, that he has actually provided for the current expense of the college by new resources, on which he has expressly charged that expense. Those resources are the town duties and government customs, revived by regulations

* 41,000/.

5, 10, and 11, of 1801. The revived duties already produce an annual sum far exceeding the current expenses of the college. The produce of these new duties has been, in 1801-2, twelve* lacs, and seventy thousand rupees; and is estimated, for the current year, at fourteen† lacs. The mode of collecting the duties having been found imperfect, and in some respects inconvenient, under the regulations of 5, 10, and 11, of 1801, a new regulation was passed, for the further improvement of the collection of those duties, on the 8th of July, 1802; under which, the produce of the duties will probably be increased, while every existing inconvenience and imperfection, in the mode of collection, will be removed. The current expense of the college, therefore, now constitutes no additional charge on the Company's revenues in Bengal, as they existed previously to the foundation of this institution; since a new resource has already been found, which actually produces a sum exceeding the amount of that expense.

18. But if this resource should fail, or if the Governor-General in Council should hereafter deem it expedient to repeal or modify these duties, the promising condition of your finances in India, leaves no doubt on my mind, that ample means will be found, independently of the produce of the town duties and government customs, to defray the current expenses of the college, without injury to any other branch of the public service.

19. The commercial investment is estimated, in this year, and in the next, at the highest standard; and notwithstanding those ample allotments for commercial purposes, provision has been secured for defraying the cur-

* 160,000*l*.

† 180,000*l*.

rent charges of the college. Neither the continuance, nor the immediate abolition of the college, would affect the investment in any degree, since the investment could not conveniently be augmented beyond its actual scale, even if the abolition of the college had already been accomplished; nor would that scale be reduced, although the college should be continued. The question, therefore, on this part of the subject, is narrowed to the limited consideration, whether it be more beneficial to the Company's affairs, to continue the annual application of a sum of three* lacs, and thirty thousand† rupees, (arising from a new fund, specially charged with this sum, and producing a considerable surplus) to the maintenance of the college, or to add this sum to the general surplus in the treasury, or to the sinking fund. Even if it should be contended, that this sum might be conveniently applied to the increase of the investment, it would remain to be proved that the effect of three lacs and thirty thousand rupees, added to the commercial investment of Bengal, (although raised to ninety lacs) would be more beneficial to the interests of the Company, and of the nation in India, than the operation of the same sum of money applied to defray the current charges of the College of Fort William.

20. The decision of this question will be easily determined, by the examination of some particular facts and general principles of government, to which I shall refer at the close of this letter.

21. With respect to any further expense to be incurred

* 41,000*l*.

† The revenues of the Company's territories amount to *fifty* millions sterling annually, of which *seven* millions were added by Lord Wellesley.

on account of the college, it must arise from some of these articles :

1st. The augmentation of the number of professorships.

2d. The future pensions of the professors and officers of the college.

3d. A building on a permanent plan.

22. The list of the actual number of professorships, and the statutes, will shew, that it is my intention to render the study of oriental literature and law, the principal object of the college. Few additional professorships, or teacherships, therefore, would have been necessary beyond the number actually filled. The principal would have been,

1. Mahratta language.

2. Ethics, and civil jurisprudence, which might have been united with the English law.

3. The history and antiquities of India, which might perhaps have been united with the preceding branch of instruction.

4. Natural History.

5. Astronomy. These branches, 4th and 5th, might have been united.

23. The institution of any of these ^{*} professorships, with the exception of the first and second, might have been subject to future consideration. These arrangements, therefore, would have occasioned no variation of importance, in the current charges of the college; and certainly would not have involved an indefinite expense.

24. The probable amount of the future pension list, to the professors and officers of the college, would have afforded no ground of alarm to the court, if the court had considered the age and probable habits and dispo-

sitions of those persons, from whom the greater proportion of the professors and officers of the college must be selected; and it would not be difficult, on correct practical principles, to form a sufficiently accurate estimate of the future amount of this pension list.

25. This part, however, of the regulation, might be modified in its operation, in such a manner as should secure the Company against any considerable burthen on this account.

26. With respect to any building to be erected for the use of the college, the question is, and ever has been, entirely open to the decision of the court; for, although ground has been purchased and allotted for the purpose of a building, no building has been commenced, nor would any have been commenced without the authority of the court. The expense of clearing and draining the ground, and of making roads in its vicinity, has not been great, and has been already defrayed; and the charge of preserving the ground in its improved state, is inconsiderable. The ground now retained, can at any time be sold again without hazard of loss. Many of the most beneficial purposes of the college have certainly been attained, and may probably be secured by the temporary continuance of the present system of the establishment in the town of Calcutta. I am, however, decidedly of opinion, that it would be highly advantageous to the efficacy and stability of the institution, and ultimately most consistent with just economy, to erect a building at Garden Reach, according to my original plan. The expense of this building might be easily defined; and might be gradually distributed through five or six years of account, in such a manner, as scarcely to produce a sensible effect upon the finances of the

Company in India. It is proper, in this place, to communicate to you an addition which will soon be made to the funds of this institution, if the Court of Directors should be pleased to revive it. A sum of three lacs of rupees will soon be paid into the treasury, on account of a legacy from the late General Martine, of Lucknow.

27. I have already taken the most respectable opinions with regard to the legality of applying this sum in aid of the funds of the college; and I have been assured, that such an application of the legacy would be perfectly legal, and strictly conformable to the intention of the estator.

28. This sum, now amounting to three* lacs of rupees, is likely to receive a considerable contingent increase under the operation of other dispositions of General Martine's will. A further increase of these funds may also arise from certain sums bequeathed by General Martine, for the purpose of founding a literary institution at Lucknow. I trust that the nabob vizier, to whose authority the application of these legacies is subject, will readily apply their amount to the support of the College at Fort William.

29. I have already observed, that the court would have possessed ample time for deliberation, with respect to the propriety of erecting a building for the use of the college; in the mean while, the funds to which I have adverted, would have necessarily increased, and might have received considerable augmentation by the contingences which might arise under the various dispositions of General Martine's will. 4

30. The preceding observations will, I trust, convince you,

That the expenses already incurred, on account of the college, have not been more considerable than was required by the magnitude of the objects proposed by its institution; and that those expenses have been actually defrayed by the new resources destined to that express purpose;

That the amount of the estimated future current expenses of the college, is accurately defined, subjected to regular control, and moderate, as well with relation to the benefits of the institution, as to its pressure on the finances of the Company;

That provision has actually been secured for defraying the future current expenses of the college, without interfering with any other branch of the public service, without diminishing the scale of your commercial investments, and with the certainty of maintaining a permanent surplus revenue, applicable to the purposes of investment in India, of nearly one million sterling in the present year, and of greater probable amount in every succeeding year of peace.

That any future augmentation of the contingent expense of the college, amounting to any sum of considerable importance, will be subject to the previous control of the government in England.

That funds are actually provided (partly by the new duties, and partly by the legacies of General Martineau) sufficient to meet any contingent increase of the expense of the college, without further pressure on the finances of the Company; and lastly,

That the finances of the company in India are in such a state of actual prosperity, connected with the probability of progressive improvement, as will sustain (even independently of the produce of the new duties) the con-

tinuance of the current charges of the College of Fort William, and will afford the means of meeting any contingent increase of the expenses of that institution without injury to public credit, and without the hazard of any delay in the reduction of the Indian debt.

31. In the first paragraph of the honourable court's letter, the court declares, that it cannot sanction the immediate establishment of the institution of the College of Fort William; and in the fifth and subsequent paragraphs, the court directs the re-establishment, on a somewhat enlarged scale, of an institution which the honourable court is pleased to denominate "Mr. Gilchrist's seminary," by the restoration of which, it is stated, to be the intention of the court, to supersede, for the present, the establishment of the College of Fort William.

32. By the letter of 12th March, 1802, addressed to Fort St. George, it also appears to be the intention of the court to found some establishment at Fort St. George, for the better instruction of the junior civil servants of that presidency; and it is reasonable to suppose, that similar measures will be adopted for the instruction of the civil servants on the establishment of Bombay.

33. It is, therefore, manifestly the intention of the court, that some establishment for the better instruction of the civil servants, at each of the presidencies, should subsist in India, although the court has been pleased to direct the immediate abolition of that institution which has been established at Fort William, with a view to the same salutary and indispensable purpose. In the letter of the 27th January, 1802, addressed to the Governor-general in council, the court has traced the outlines of the establishment, which it directs to be substituted in

place of the college at Fort William. These intentions of the court, clearly expressed in their commands to Bengal and Fort St. George, reduce the subject of this letter within the limits still more confined than those within which I have endeavoured to comprise my observations in the preceding pages.

34. In considering the question in its present state, it is necessary only to compare the actual expense and ascertained benefit of the institution now subsisting at Fort William, with the probable expense and probable benefit of the seminaries, by which the honourable court intends to supersede that institution. The honourable court in reviving the experimental establishment at Calcutta, originally placed under Mr. Gilchrist's direction, is pleased to sanction an extension of the scale of that establishment, adding to the study of the Hindûstane, that of the Persian and Bengalese languages; and also that of the laws and regulations enacted by the Governor-general in Council, for the government of the Company's territories in India. It is evident, that without an establishment of teachers or professors, in each of these branches of study, it would be utterly impossible to accomplish the declared intention of the honourable court, "of effecting, by the institution of a seminary for oriental learning, many of the beneficial purposes expected by the Governor-general," from the "foundation of the college." On this augmented scale of Mr. Gilchrist's seminary, each professor or teacher, could not be expected to be engaged at a monthly salary inferior to one thousand five hundred rupees. This charge would amount to six thousand rupees monthly; or to about two-thirds of the total amount of the present salaries to the provost, vice-provost, professors and

teachers in the oriental languages, in classics, in the modern languages, and in mathematics.

35. I am persuaded, that a further consideration of the subject will satisfy the honourable court, that the study of the Arabic language is absolutely necessary to the attainment of a correct knowledge of the Persian; the knowledge of Arabic is also indispensable to those who propose to attain any considerable degree of skill in the Mahommedan law. A teacher or professor of the Arabic must therefore form a part of the establishment in Bengal, even on the limited scale proposed by the court.

36. To the expense of this establishment must be added, the charge of whatever foundations shall be established at Fort St. George and Bombay respectively. Considerations of justice, as well as of policy, would certainly induce the honourable court to afford to their servants, at each of those presidencies, sources of instruction, equally pure and abundant as those which might be opened to the civil service in Bengal. The duties of the civil service, at each of the subordinate presidencies, now embrace objects of equal importance, in every department, to those comprehended in the administration of Bengal.

37. In proportion to the improvement of the internal constitution of each of the subordinate presidencies, qualifications of a higher description will be demanded in the civil service. And I must add, that the progress of that improvement, and the abundant supply of public officers, properly qualified to discharge their arduous duties in the several stations of the administration, are the securities on which the Company must rely for the prosperity of the country, for the happiness of our na-

tive subjects, for the augmentation of our resources, and for the stability of our power.

38. The incontestible wisdom, policy, necessity, and justice, of providing for the civil services of Fort St. George and Bombay, similar advantages of education to those established in Bengal, warrant me in assuming the certainty, that the honourable court will never consent to curtail the institutions proposed for the subordinate presidencies respectively within limits more confined than the necessary extent and scope of the respective duties of the civil service under each of those governments.

39. Consistently with this principle, at Fort St. George, the court will find, that the knowledge of the Arabic, Persian, and Hindûstane languages, and of the laws and regulations of the local British government of India, is not less necessary than in Bengal; teachers or professors must therefore be established at Madras, in each of those branches of study.

40. In addition to these teachers, it will be necessary at Fort St. George, to provide teachers in the following languages: Telinga, Tamul, Canarese, and Mah-ratta.

41. At Bombay, the knowledge of the Arabic, Persian, and Hindûstane languages, and of the laws and regulations of these governments, is as necessary a qualification for the civil service, as at Fort St. George; and consequently similar means must be afforded (upon the principles already stated) to the civil service at Bombay, of attaining a competent knowledge in each of these branches of study.

42. The study of the Arabic is however peculiarly necessary at Bombay, and may become indispensable in proportion to the extension of our relations with the

nations inhabiting the coast of the Persian and Arabian gulphs.

43. In addition to these establishments, the civil servants at Bombay would require teachers in the following languages : Canarese, Mahratta, and Malabar, as spoken on the coast of that name.

44. You will observe, that the necessary effect of this plan would be to involve the expense of a triple establishment for every branch of study equally requisite at each of the three presidencies ; and of a double establishment for every branch of study, equally requisite at any two of the presidencies.

45. In the united institution founded at Calcutta, four professors or teachers would be found sufficient, with occasional assistance, for the instruction of the whole body of the students from the three presidencies, in the Arabic, Persian, and Hindûstane languages, and in the laws and regulations of the British government in India. If the institution be broken into three seminaries, twelve professors or teachers will be required for the same purpose. The same observation applies to the establishments for the study of those languages, of which the utility is common to Fort St. George and Bombay ; one teacher in each branch at Calcutta, would serve for the instruction of all the students from the two subordinate presidencies ; on the new plan two teachers must be established, one at Fort St. George, and one at Bombay.

46. It will be manifest, therefore, to your judgment, that the current expenses of these separate establishments at each presidency respectively, framed even on the scale stated in the preceding pages, or on any scale compatible with the attainment of the proposed objects, must equal, and would probably exceed, the total current charges of

the College of Fort William on the highest estimate of those charges.

47. But a more attentive examination of the subject will convince you, that the expense of the three proposed seminaries must far exceed the preceding calculation, and in the same degree must also exceed not only the current charges but the probable amount of the contingent expenses of the College founded at Fort William.

48. The fifth paragraph of the honourable court's letter, is expressed in terms which might convey a supposition that the minute of the Governor-general, under date the 21st December, 1798, originated in some plan of a literary establishment proposed by Mr. Gilchrist; but the minute of the Governor-general of the 21st December, 1798, states distinctly, that my attention had been long directed to the existing defects in the education of the civil service; that I had formed, and had stated verbally in council, the general outlines of an extensive plan for the purpose of remedying those defects, and that the execution of that plan had been delayed exclusively, by the dangers which then menaced the existence of this empire, and demanded my presence on the coast of Coromandel. The minute, and the order in council annexed to it, bear date on the 21st December, 1798. On the 25th I embarked for Madras.

49. The zeal, ability, and diligence of Mr. Gilchrist, as a teacher of the Hindustanee language, and his eminent merits in forming a most useful grammar and dictionary of that colloquial dialect, induced me to consider him to the most eligible instrument for the purpose of aiding me in attempting an experiment of the practical use of a systematic plan of instruction in the study of the oriental languages.

50. Mr. Gilchrist never offered to my consideration any proposal for the institution of a seminary for oriental learning; that gentleman merely proposed to me the aid of his services, in giving lessons in the Hindûstane, and in the rudiments of the Persian language, under whatever institution this government might establish. Mr. Gilchrist's laudable offer of the aid of his labours on that occasion, was not only prompt and zealous, but was accompanied by circumstances highly creditable to his liberality and public spirit, to the moderation of his views of private interest, and to his just sense and value of public fame.

51. The result of Mr. Gilchrist's services corresponded with my most sanguine expectations, and proved, in the most satisfactory manner, the great advantages which must result from establishing, for the civil service, a regular and systematic plan of instruction in the oriental languages, in place of the desultory mode of study which had hitherto prevailed under the ordinary practice of resorting exclusively to native moonshees for assistance in learning those languages.

52. Mr. Gilchrist's lessons indeed were more particularly directed to the grammatical study of the Hindûstane language. That able and indefatigable scholar does not profess to furnish instruction in the Persian language beyond its first elements; and the knowledge of the Persian language, acquired by some of the students under Mr. Gilchrist, was merely elementary; but the examinations holden in July, 1800, and the progress (unexampled until that time) made by some of Mr. Gilchrist's scholars, in the Hindûstane dialect, and in the rudiments of the Persian language, furnished ample ground for

estimating the benefits which would be derived to the civil service, under the operation of a regular education, not only in the Hindústanee language, but in every branch of knowledge connected with the public duties of the civil servants.

53. I request you to remark, that in my original minute of December, 1798, I expressly proposed the employment of Mr. Gilchrist, and the future examination of his scholars, with the exclusive view of ascertaining the efficacy of Mr. Gilchrist's mode of instruction.

54. The notification issued at the same period of time, to the civil service in Bengal, is stated, in my minute of 21st December, 1798, to have been proposed as a measure which might be useful; with a view to establish the fundamental principles of the general and more extensive plan at that time in my contemplation.

55. These principles consisted in imposing an obligation upon the civil service, to attend to the study of the oriental languages, and of the laws and regulations of government; and in rendering previous examinations in those studies necessary qualifications for office.

56. The object of this notification was rather to excite the diligence of your civil service, than actually to the examinations announced in that paper; considerable difficulties would have occurred in prosecuting an attempt to enforce such a system of examination. And it was always my opinion, that the existing defects in the qualifications of your civil service could not be corrected effectually, without applying the remedy to the source of the evil—the original education of the writers. The notification of 1798, however, was useful in raising a gene-

the spirit of attention to oriental knowledge throughout this service.

57. The respectable and learned gentlemen, who formed the committee of examination of Mr. Gilchrist's scholars in July, 1800, refer the benefits to be derived from the progress of Mr. Gilchrist's services directly to the institution of the college; and they justly consider Mr. Gilchrist's lessons to have been merely introductory to the foundation of that institution, and to have furnished the most abundant proofs of its indispensable necessity, as well as of its certain utility and beneficial effect.

58. The letter of the Honourable Court, under date the 7th of May, 1800, approves the principles stated in the notifications of December, 1798, and sanctions the more extensive arrangement intended to be founded on those principles; but that letter contains no reference to the existence of any seminary under the direction of Mr. Gilchrist, as furnishing the model of the establishment which the Governor-General in Council had declared to be in his contemplation.

59. Adverting to these circumstances I should have found considerable difficulty in forming a just conception of the precise intention of the Honourable Court, in directing me to supersede the establishment of the College of Fort William, by the re-establishment of "Mr. Gilchrist's seminary," if the Honourable Court had not been pleased to state, in the 6th and 7th paragraphs of the letter of the 27th of July, 1802, the particular branches of knowledge deemed by the Court sufficient to qualify a civil servant for the administration of affairs in Bengal, and had not thus described the extent and nature of the establishment which it proposed to sanction.

60. But no modification or extension of the plan under which Mr. Gilchrist was employed in 1799 and 1800, can embrace the objects proposed to be secured by the collegiate establishment at Fort William.

61. It was among the advantages arising from the employment of Mr. Gilchrist, that not only the success of his services was highly beneficial to the extent which it reached, but that the fundamental defects of that limited plan furnished rules for my guidance, in founding a comprehensive and liberal institution on the ground of practical experience.

62. It was found, that the numerous body of young men assembled at Calcutta, for the purpose of attending Mr. Gilchrist's lectures, was exposed to various disadvantages, the effect of which counteracted the assiduity of their teacher, and tended to produce mischiefs of a serious description.

63. The local authority of this great government could not be immediately and constantly applied to controul, among the young men, individual habits of negligence, dissipation, contumacy, extravagance, or immorality. The continual and important avocations of the Governor-General in Council, and the nature and eminence of his station, rendered it impracticable, as well as improper, for him to attempt to exercise the immediate discipline requisite to maintain regularity of conduct and attention to study among such a numerous body of the junior servants. Mr. Gilchrist's lectures, therefore, although highly useful to those naturally disposed to industry or order, furnished no controul or discipline to restrain or correct those of opposite inclinations.

64. The young men of more unsettled dispositions neglected the lectures, and availed themselves of their

confidence in this populous town, to indulge in courses of extravagance, expence and dissipation. The limited plan of Mr. Gilchrist's lectures supplied no intermediate and special jurisdiction, placed between the government and the students, to apply, through a respectable channel, the authority of the Governor-General in Council, in enforcing a due system of discipline and study, in regulating private economy and moral conduct, in precluding temptation to expence, and in guarding against every vicious excess.

65. But it cannot be denied, that these objects are of the highest importance, not merely on moral considerations, but in their relation to the political interests and honour of the Company, and of the nation in India; and to the purity and efficiency of the public service.

66. Wherever a numerous body of young men shall be assembled for the purpose of study, whatever form of instruction may be devised for their education, it cannot be expected, that their attention will be systematically fixed on their prescribed duties, unless the discharge of those duties shall be duly enforced by an efficient system of discipline and restraint.

67. These incontrovertible principles, derived from general experience, and confirmed by my personal experience of the dangers to which the young men were exposed; during their attendance on Mr. Gilchrist, induced me to form my general plan, for the better instruction of your civil service, on the basis of a collegiate institution; in which study should be enforced by discipline, and education regulated by efficient restraint; in which, (according to the words of the regulation which the Honourable Court has been pleased to abrogate) "under the superintendence, direction and controul, of the supreme autho-

rity of the government of these possessions, the studies of the junior servants, appointed, at an early period of life, to the civil service of the Honourable the East India Company, should be directed and regulated ; their conduct, upon their first arrival in India, guided, their morals formed, improved and preserved ;" and in which the junior servants should be " encouraged to maintain the honour of the British name in India, by a regular and orderly course of industry, prudence, integrity and religion."

68. In pursuance of these indispensable objects, the regulation established the offices of provost and vice-provost ; and the statutes constituted a council of the superior officers of the college for the internal government of the institution ; and it was declared to be the primary duty of the provost, " to receive the junior civil servants, on their first arrival at Fort William, to superintend and regulate their general morals and conduct, to assist them with his advice and admonition, and to instruct and confirm them in the principles of the Christian religion, according to the doctrines, discipline, and rites of the Church of England, as established by law."

69. The statutes also made especial provision for applying the authority of the provost, " to guard the moral and religious interests and character of the institution, by controlling the conduct of the officers, professors, and teachers of the college ;" and for applying the internal authority of the superior officers of the college, " to strengthen and confirm, within these possessions, the attachment of the civil servants of the East India Company, to the wise laws and happy constitution of Great Britain : and to maintain and uphold the Christian religion in this quarter of the globe." The statutes also

established a public table, and required the regular attendance of the students at that table for the purpose of precluding habits of debauchery and expence; and the statutes also provided the most effectual restraints which could be devised to prevent the junior civil servants from contracting debt.

70. Without such a vigorous and respectable system of restraint of discipline, it is my conscientious opinion, that great mischief would be infused into your civil servants at its very source, by establishing any seminary of instruction, which should require the whole body of your junior civil servants to continue assembled together for any considerable period of time, in any part of your possessions, and above all, at the seats of the respective presidencies.

71. When the Honourable Court shall have deliberately reviewed the probable consequences of assembling the body of the junior civil servants at each of the presidencies, under such circumstances, I am persuaded, that the Court will issue a positive command to establish, at each presidency, in addition to the necessary teachers and professors, some authority of the nature of that exercised in colleges in Europe, and of that now existing in the college of Fort-William, for the purpose of maintaining and promoting order and discipline, good morals and religion.

72. Having formed a decided judgment, founded on personal experience, and on a most assiduous and deliberate attention to the state of your service, and of your possessions, that the institutions ordered by the Honourable Court will prove not only inefficient, with reference to their proposed objects, but the sources of positive danger to the service, without the additional establishments

described in the preceding paragraphs, my respect for the wisdom, justice, and honour, of the court, demands the conclusion which I have drawn from these premises. I therefore repeat my certain conviction, that the court will immediately command each of their presidencies to incur this additional charge, for the purpose of giving efficiency to the proposed system of study, and of saving the younger branches of the service from the ruinous courses of dissipation, licentiousness, and expense.

73. The seminary to be established in Calcutta, under the late orders of the Court, would necessarily include all the writers for Bengal, according to their successive arrival in India: no material reduction of establishment, or of expense, would therefore be effected at Calcutta, if the public table, and the existing system for the internal government of the College should be maintained, although the writers belonging to the subordinate presidencies should be separated from the institution.

74. On the other hand, the same internal jurisdiction, necessary for the discipline and government of the numerous body of the students of Bengal, would be sufficient to preserve order and regularity in the whole collective body of students from the three presidencies. Neither the government of Fort St. George, nor that of Bombay, could compromise its local authority in enforcing hourly attention to study, and in compelling regularity of individual conduct among the junior civil servants, attached to their respective seminaries of instruction. If, therefore, the writers of Fort St. George and Bombay, should be attached to distinct seminaries at each of those presidencies, each institution must be framed nearly on the model of the College at Fort William, with similar

establishments for the maintenance of the internal discipline and controul, and for preventing expense and debt.

75. Under all these circumstances, the final result of dividing the College of Fort William, into three seminaries, to be established separately at each presidency, would either be to render each and all those seminaries inefficient and dangerous, or to aggravate the collective expense of this triple institution, to an amount greatly exceeding the charges of the united establishment now existing at Fort William.

76. Having thus compared the actual expenses of the College of Fort William, with the probable expense of the establishments, by which the court has been pleased to supersede that institution, I am anxious to direct your particular attention to the benefits already derived to your civil service, from the operation and effect of the system of study and discipline constituted and enforced by the regulations, statutes, and rules, of the College,

77. The periodical examinations of the students, of which the regular reports are transmitted (by the ships Comet and Sovereign) will manifest the progress made by the greater number of the students towards the objects of the institution.

78. The examiners, who have always been selected from the ablest oriental scholars, actually at Calcutta, have invariably expressed their judgment, that the general progress of the students in the oriental languages and literature, has exceeded their most sanguine expectations, as well with reference to the rapidity and extent of the improvement of the students, as to the accuracy and solid foundations of critical knowledge which they have acquired.

79. An universal opinion is received, that the students

of the College now ~~make~~ greater progress in ~~Oriental~~ learning, in a few months, than the same persons could have attained in as many years under the former system. This great improvement is attributed not only to the zeal and diligence both of the professors and students, but to the number of useful works published in the College for the purpose of facilitating the acquisition of the several languages, and to the unexampled skill of the professors and teachers in the mode of instruction which they have adopted.

80. The voluntary aid of every respectable oriental scholar in India, has been afforded to support the discipline, and to improve the course of study, and the mode of instruction pursued in the institution; the respectable and dignified character of the institution has interested the literary part of this settlement, not only in promoting its prosperity, but in seeking a station of a public officer of the College as an object of high honour and distinction. In this respect, the comprehensive, munificent, and liberal scale of the establishment, has actually contributed to diminish its current expenses.

81. From the commencement of the institution to the present time, only two professors and two teachers, in the oriental languages, have received salaries. They have been assisted and supported, in the conduct of their respective classes, by the aid of learned gentlemen of high station and character, who certainly could never have been expected to promote with equal zeal, the establishment of a seminary, contracted within more narrow limits, confined to views of less ample extent, and destitute of the energy and respect which accompany a regular system of collegiate discipline, strengthened by the most powerful incitements of immediate public honour.

and splendid distinction, and directed to the noblest, the highest, and the greatest object of human pursuit—the good government of a great empire.

82. Formed with these advantages, and accompanied with these circumstances of dignity and respect, the College has received the voluntary aid of Mr. Barlow, Mr. Harington, Mr. Edmonstone, Lieutenant-Colonel Kirkpatrick, and Mr. Colebrooke, each of whom, either have held, or now actually hold, professorships, without salary, under the present structure of the institution. To these are to be added many respectable names of gentlemen who have voluntarily assisted, without reward, in conducting the public examinations.

83. If the scale of the institution be lowered, its authority degraded, and the lustre and magnitude of its character and objects diminished, it must be conducted by instruments duly suited to its reduced importance; and the respectable aid which it has hitherto received from the most able and learned men in India, can neither be justly demanded, nor reasonably expected.

84. The public examinations, the frequent distribution of honorary medals and pecuniary rewards; the encouragement and applause of the whole body of oriental scholars in India, and the peculiar opportunities of conferring eminent distinction, which the present constitution of the College affords to the person exercising the supreme authority in India, have excited a spirit of emulation among the students, as unexampled in its scope and ardour, as it is propitious to the future government of these possessions. This happy spirit is not confined to a few; not to those, whose talents, former acquisitions, habits, or character, appeared to be of the most favourable promise at their entrance into the institution; not

to those, whose connections might be supposed to influence their conduct; it is nearly universal in its operations, and unlimited in its extent; and I must here declare to you, with that freedom which a regard for your interests demands, that the institution (which the court has been pleased to abolish) has already corrected many of the defects which I found in the younger branches of your civil service upon my arrival in India; has already reclaimed to industrious and meritorious pursuits, many of your junior servants, who were disposed to pursue courses of a contrary tendency, and has raised a standard of public honour which is become the general resort of diligence, order, good morals, learning, and religion. The regulations of the College, for the prevention of habits of extravagance and expense, and for restraining young men from contracting debts, have produced a most beneficial effect; and I have the satisfaction to assure you, after an accurate investigation of this branch of the institution, that a general disposition to economy and regularity now prevails among the students at Fort William. That the principles of due subordination have also been established among them with the happiest success; and that the most salutary consequences are visible in their general conduct, manners, and morals. I have no hesitation in declaring, that the young men now composing the body of the students at Fort William, afford the most auspicious hope, that the local administration of India, for several years to come, will be amply provided with instruments properly qualified to accomplish all the purposes of a wise, just, and benevolent government.

85. Considerable force and animation have been derived to the principles of the institution, from the honour.

able contention between the students of the different establishments assembled at Fort William. They consider the character of their several presidencies to be deeply concerned in their respective progress, and in the public distinctions which they respectively obtain.

86. The negligence or disorder of any one member of their body, is felt by the whole as a common disgrace; and they all deem the honour of their particular establishment and their own personal consequence to be involved in the conduct of each individual of their number.

87. The students of Fort St. George and Bombay highly value the advantage of pursuing their studies under the immediate inspection of the Governor-General, and of the chief public officers of the supreme government. It is difficult to describe the degree of alacrity and zeal with which this circumstance alone has inspired the students from the subordinate presidencies; many of whom (it is a matter of satisfaction and just pride to me to assure you) have attained the highest distinctions in the College, and have rivalled the most eminent examples of merit among the civil servants of Bengal.

88. By the influence of these powerful causes, a general attention to oriental languages, literature, and knowledge, has been excited, far beyond the limits of the institution; and the pursuit of these laudable objects has been facilitated and encouraged among many of your civil servants, who could not be admitted within the rules of the College.

The students of Fort St. George and Bombay have also manifested the most favourable disposition to avail themselves, to the fullest extent, of the benefit of an unity of instruction in the principles and practice of the government of Bengal. To this peculiar and inestimable

advantage of the present institution, I request your most serious attention. The administration of the government of Bengal, in all its branches, may justly be considered to furnish a most desirable model for each of the subordinate presidencies. The prosperous issue of the last war in Mysore, combined with the happy result of various political negotiations in the peninsula, has extended the limits of the territorial possessions, under the government of Fort St. George, to a magnitude which nearly equals that of the dominions administered under the immediate authority of this presidency. At this moment the government of Fort St. George is employed, under my orders, in establishing the foundations of an improved code of laws and regulations, and of an entirely new constitution for the due distribution of the executive, legislative, and judicial functions of that extensive and arduous government.

89. The functions of the government of Bombay have recently received a proportionate extension, and the civil servants of the establishment of Bombay are now eligible to some of the most important offices under the immediate control of the government of Fort St. George.

90. In this situation, it is of the utmost importance to the good government of the subordinate presidencies, that the spirit and character of the service in Bengal should be infused into the administration of their respective governments.

91. The salutary effect has already been produced with the utmost degree of facility and security to the extent of that portion of each subordinate establishment now attached to the College of Fort William. Many of these young men are of the highest promise, of the most extensive knowledge, and of the purest principles, ac-

formed, or confirmed, under this institution ; and, I doubt not, that they will carry with them, upon their return to their respective presidencies, the fruitful seeds of reform and improvement, for the benefit of each of those yet imperfect systems of administration.

92. The advantages described in the preceding paragraphs, are neither doubtful, remote, nor contingent. Their existence has already been ascertained by public proof ; and, to the extent which they have reached, they must produce correspondent effects on the public service at each of the presidencies. It is at least questionable whether, under the proposed system of establishing three distinct seminaries for the instruction of the civil service in Bengal, Fort St. George, and Bombay, any of these advantages can be attained to an equal extent ; it is certain that, under the new system, many of the benefits of the existing institution will be found unattainable in the same extent, and some of the most important, utterly unattainable in any degree.

93. No person, acquainted with the actual state of India, can suppose that the presidencies either of Fort St. George, or of Bombay, can furnish means of instruction in the Arabic, Persian, or Hindustanee languages, or in the system of the laws and regulations for the government of India, equal to those now afforded by the College of Fort William ; nor can it be imagined, that either of the subordinate presidencies can attract the resort of learned men to the extent which has been so beneficially effected at Calcutta.

94. With respect to the study of the vernacular dialects, in use within the dominions of each of the subordinate presidencies, it is evident, that the study of those languages may be systematically pursued, with equal ad-

vantage, at Fort William, as at the seats of either of the subordinate presidencies. The study of the elements of those vernacular dialects ought not to supersede the acquisition of those essential parts of oriental literature and knowledge, and of the spirit and general constitution of these governments, which should form the basis of the education of every civil servant in India. In the College of Fort William, the pursuit of all these objects may be advantageously combined; and the degree of attention to be bestowed on each particular language may be properly apportioned, according to the views and destination of the student, under the superintending authority of the College.

95. In the letter of the Honourable Court of the 27th January, 1802, no observation occurs with respect to the necessity of studying the Shanscrit dialect; but I am satisfied that a due enquiry into that branch of the question will convince the Honourable Court, that the study of the Shanscrit is absolutely necessary to those who would obtain a correct knowledge of the Hindu law, or of the manners, customs, usages, and religion of the Hindus. The study of this most ancient language appears to be peculiarly necessary to the civil servants at Fort St. George and Bombay.

96. The Shanscrit dialect being the source and root of the principal vernacular dialects prevalent in the peninsula, a knowledge of the Shanscrit must form the basis of a correct and perfect knowledge of those vernacular dialects. But it would be difficult, if not impracticable, at present, to supply means of instruction in the Shanscrit language at either of the subordinate presidencies, in any degree approaching to the advantages in that branch of study which can now be furnished at Fort William. This

lminent advantage, added to the facility of collecting at Fort William the best teachers in the several vernacular dialects of the peninsula, seems to open to the writers of Fort St. George and Bombay, a more favourable prospect of obtaining a correct, fundamental, and systematic knowledge of the vernacular dialects of the peninsula at Fort William, than could be now expected at their respective presidencies.

97. A source of instruction in oriental literature actually exists at Fort William, which could not be procured without great difficulty and expense at either of the subordinate presidencies. This advantage consists in an extensive and valuable collection of oriental manuscripts, comprising the library of Tippoo Sultaun, and various other collections, some of which have been purchased, and others presented to the institution.

98. Many of the most efficient causes of the extraordinary spirit of emulation, which now exists in the whole body of the students from the three presidencies, collected at Calcutta, could not be supposed to operate with equal force, when the body of the students shall be broken and distributed partially in three distinct and remote seminaries at their respective presidencies.

99. The abatement of this spirit, in any degree, would be injurious not only to the students from the subordinate presidencies, but to those of Bengal. It is, however, reasonable to conclude, that the evil consequences of the separation of the students would be most injuriously felt at Fort St. George and Bombay. The students from those settlements now justly conclude, that their education at Fort William, by bringing their individual merits immediately under the eye of the Governor-general, opens a new field of honourable emolument to their interests, and

a more enlarged career distinction and fame to their ambition.

100. Various offices, connected with diplomatic stations, and with other employments, principally of a political description, must necessarily remain under the immediate authority and appointment of the supreme government. To these respectable stations the civil servants of all the presidencies are equally eligible; and it cannot fail to furnish a powerful incitement to the diligence and zeal of the students from Fort St. George and Bombay, that the period of their residence at Calcutta opens repeated opportunities of founding claims to such stations on the solid basis of distinction, obtained in the regular course of their studies at the college of Fort William, and of honours publicly recorded on the proceedings of the supreme government.

101. But the most important benefits, which will be forfeited by the separate establishments at the subordinate presidencies, are the uniform education and instruction of the whole body of the civil service in India, in one system of political, moral, and religious principles, derived from a common source, and diffused throughout all the British establishments under the immediate superintendence of the supreme authority in India.

102. It has been a principal object of my attention, since my arrival in India, to consolidate the interests and resources of the three presidencies, to promote in each of them a common spirit of attachment to their mutual prosperity and honour, to assimilate their principles and views, and to unite their respective honours, by such means as might secure their co-operation in the common cause, and might facilitate the management of this extensive empire, in the hands of the supreme government of India. I am

amly convinced, that a more intimate union of the three establishments, is an object not merely of good policy, and of just economy, but of indispensable necessity to the stability of this empire.

103. The general principles of government (applicable, with few modifications, to every part of the Company's territories) will certainly be studied with most advantage as the mainspring of power in India, and will be circulated to the extremities of the empire with more vigour and purity, in proportion to the early, direct, and free communication between the fountain head of authority, and the subordinate branches of the service.

104. The same advantages will be better secured under a united institution in preserving the attachment of the civil servants of the Company to the political, moral, and religious principles of the mother country.

105. This topic has already been stated by me, in my notes of the 18th of August, 1800. I remain in a firm conviction founded on the experience attained of the effects at the College of Fort William, as well as on the nature and condition of both the subordinate presidencies, that the continuance of the institution at Fort William, will produce upon the general character and efficiency of your civil service (by the diffusion of just and correct principles, of sound knowledge, and of a general spirit of subordination and harmony) salutary effects unattainable under any form of education which shall separate the writers on their first arrival in India, and shall confine them, in detached divisions, to study the local principles, contracted knowledge, and characteristic prejudices and spirit of their respective settlements.

106. These considerations have satisfied my judgment that the benefits actually derived, and reasonably to be

expected from the operation of the present institution; and must be greatly superior to any advantage which can be expected from the most complete possible success of the three seminaries proposed by the honourable Court; while the probable expenses of the proposed system must considerably exceed those of the college at Fort William.

107. In directing the immediate abolition of the College of Fort William, the letter of the honourable Court of the 27th January, 1802, appears to acknowledge with approbation the liberal and enlightened spirit of the institution, the just principles on which it is founded, and the important ends to which it is directed.

108. The objections stated by the Court, against the continuance of the establishment, are apparently confined to its expense, and to the pressure of that charge on the present circumstances of the Company's finances in India.

109. Possessed therefore of the Court's approbation of the general principle and objects of the institution; having actually experienced and ascertained its beneficial effects; being satisfied that its expenses can be defrayed without inconvenience to any branch of the Company's affairs, and without any degree of pressure on the finances of the Company in India; being further convinced, that the plan of instruction proposed by the Court in supercession of the College, would exceed the expense which the Court had condemned, and expose to hazard the principles which the court had approved, I might have deemed it to be my duty, under such circumstances, to suspend the execution of the commands of the Court for the abolition of the College, to refer the question to the further pleasure of the Court, and to request that the court should

be pleased to renew the consideration of orders, the declared foundation of which has been entirely removed by the happy change effected in the financial situation of the Company in India.

110. But although the first view of my duty might have suggested the propriety of such reference, the peculiar character and spirit of the court's commands, on this unhappy occasion, and the nature of the institution, (intimately blended with the general subordination of the service) seemed to me to require that I should proceed immediately to the public abolition of the institution, as an act of necessary submission to the controlling authority of the court of directors, and as a testimony of the obedience due to the superior power, placed by law in the government at home; I therefore passed an order in council (on the 24th of June) directing that all expenses incurred on account of the College of Fort William should cease, and that the institution should be abolished; at the same time, I repealed the regulations enacted for the foundation and management of the College, together with all statutes and orders, enacted or passed by the Governor-general in council, or by the visitor, for its discipline and government; but a most serious and difficult question arose, with regard to the time when the abolition of the College, and the repeal of the regulations should take effect, and also when all the expenses of the College should cease, and when the students collected at Calcutta, from the subordinate presidencies, should be returned to their respective settlements.

111. The determination of this question, involved principles deeply affecting the welfare, future prospects, and just expectations of the students, and also the consideration due to the situation of the professors and teachers,

and of the numerous learned natives attached to the institution.

112. If, in pursuance of the orders of the honourable Court, contained in the ninth paragraph of their letter, "all expenses hitherto incurred on account of the College had immediately ceased," the whole system of discipline and order, hitherto maintained by that expence, must, of course, have been instantaneously and abruptly dissolved, and the numerous body of students, now assembled at Fort William, must have been suddenly exposed to all the evils incident to an uncontrolled and unrestrained residence in this populous town, until means could have been found of employing them at distant stations, or of returning them to their several establishments.

113. This sudden dissolution of discipline would have acted with most dangerous and protracted effect on students from the subordinate presidencies, who could not conveniently have returned thither for some time.

114. The revival of Mr. Gilchrist's lectures, on the former plan, would have afforded no remedy to these evils; in order to preserve the young men from exceptionable habits, the controlling authorities of the College must have been revived at the same time. The restoration of those authorities would, in fact, have restored the whole institution, together with all the expenses which the court had ordered immediately to cease. No alternative therefore remained between the instantaneous abolition of the whole institution, and its continuance, with all its present establishments, until the period of time should have elapsed during which it might appear to be necessary and just to detain the great body of the students at Calcutta. And here it is, with pain and

regret, that I feel myself bound, by the most sacred obligations of duty, to claim your attention to the consequences which the immediate execution of the honourable Court's order must have produced upon the honourable and equitable pretensions of the promising young men now attached to the college. Some of these meritorious students have voluntarily relinquished their respective presidencies, and have resigned eligible situations, with the laudable motive of prosecuting their studies in the college for the prescribed time. These students would have completed their course in December next. They expected to receive the reward of their labours at the public examination to be holden at that period of time. On their awarded rank at that examination, they rested their hopes of promotion at their respective presidencies; and they have been further encouraged by the animating hope of seeing, on that occasion, the record of their merits, and the honour of their success, publicly entered on the proceedings of the supreme government, and of being distinguished by the personal approbation of the Governor-general in council.

115. Every principle of wise policy, every real and legitimate interest of the Company, forbids that the industry of a numerous body of the junior civil servants should be discouraged, their honourable ambition frustrated, and their active and laborious emulation disappointed in those fair hopes of distinction which they had been taught to entertain by the laws and orders of this government, and by many preceding examples of successful labour, and rewarded study.

116. In addition to the motives of a wise policy, the considerations of justice and of humane regard for the interests and feelings of these young men, appeared to

require that the government should not abruptly interpose a sudden act of authority between the termination of their studies and the season of their reward. It would not be strictly conformable to the principles of justice, that the government should have excited among these young men a spirit of diligence and attention to the pursuit of Oriental knowledge, under a public pledge of securing to them, at stated periods of time, special honours and advantages, according to their respective progress, and that the same authority should prematurely intervene to deprive the students of the promised fruits of their exertions.

117. The abolition of the college, therefore, could not have taken place, with justice to this class of students, until the month of December, 1802.

118. But the great body of the students, now in the college, will not have completed their course of study until the month of December, 1803.

119. The sudden abolition of the institution would be still more severely felt by the great body of the students, than by that particular class to which I have adverted in the preceding paragraphs.

120. By the prescribed course of study in the college, the attention of the student is more particularly directed, during the first year, to the Hindustanee and Persian languages. During the latter period of his course, he enters upon the study of the vernacular languages prevalent at the respective presidencies. If, therefore, the great body of the students, now attached to the college of Fort William, should be unseasonably interrupted in the course of their studies, and should be precluded from the advantage of the latter period of their prescribed education, those who should return to Fort St.

George and Bombay, under such circumstances, would necessarily be exposed to embarrassments and disadvantages of the most adverse and discouraging nature.

121. In addition to the premature interruption of their progress at Fort William, their sudden return to their respective presidencies would expose them to the hazards of remaining, for a considerable time, deprived of all efficient means of instruction, in the principal objects of their collegiate course. Some interval of time must elapse before any institution, at either of the subordinate presidencies, could be so far advanced as to afford to these young men means of instruction, even in the vernacular dialects of their respective presidencies, in any degree equal to the facilities now furnished in the college of Fort William. In the mean while, their studies must remain suspended; whereas their continuance at Fort William, until the month of December, 1803, would secure to them such a foundation of knowledge as would enable them to prosecute their studies without further assistance upon their return to Fort St. George or Bombay.

122. These considerations seemed to me to demand that, with exclusive reference to the welfare and just pretensions of the young men now attached to the institution, the abolition of the college of Fort William should be gradual, and that the institution should not be finally closed previously to the month of December, 1803, when the great body of the students now attached to the college will have completed the course which they have so successfully commenced.

123. The immediate abolition of the institution might also be deemed as an act of injustice towards those learned professors and teachers, who have been called from

other situations and pursuits to assist in the management and conduct of this important establishment. It would be equally inconsistent with true wisdom, and with the liberal spirit which has ever distinguished the conduct of the Company, in the encouragement of oriental literature and science, to dismiss these gentlemen from their high stations with such a degree of precipitation as might involve their circumstances in embarrassment, and might bear the appearance of harshness and disrespect.

124. Most of these gentlemen have devoted their entire time and labour to promote the objects of the institution, and have withdrawn their attention from every other pursuit: it would not be just to deprive them suddenly of salaries which may be considered, in some degree, as a remuneration for past exertions, and a compensation for the relinquishment of other avocations.

125. The assiduity and learning of these gentlemen have produced several works in oriental languages and literature, which have been published since the commencement of the institution, and which have greatly facilitated its success. Continuations of these useful works are now in a considerable degree of progress. Some works of this nature are actually in the press. At this time the professors and teachers of the Persian, Arabic, Hindustanee, Bengalee, and Shanscrit languages, are each employed in composing grammars or dictionaries, and in making translations or compilations for the use of the students.

126. It is probable that the greater part of these works will be completed in the course of a year. No cause inferior to the pressure of absolute necessity would justify your government in the sudden dismissal of a body of learned men, whose labours are now employed

with such utility to the public service, and the ~~con-~~nuance of whose exertions in the same field promise to produce such fruits.

127. Many learned natives are now attached to the institution, who have been invited to Fort William, by my especial authority, from distant parts of Asia. These respectable persons have been encouraged, by the prospect of pecuniary and honorary rewards, to undertake works in original composition for the use of the college. They also render considerable service to the professors and teachers in the ordinary duties of the several classes. The expense of rewarding these persons according to their labours, is indispensable to the progress of the young men. The *sudden dismissal* of the LEARNED NATIVES, attached to the college, would therefore be an act of *manifest injustice*, on the grounds already stated; it would also be an act of the most *flagrant impolicy*; nor would it be consistent either with the interest or honour of the Company in India, that a numerous body of learned natives, after having been *expressly invited* by the British government to support a public institution, by the aid of their knowledge and talents, should be abruptly deprived of their emoluments, should be denied the opportunity of *completing those works which they had been encouraged to commence*, and should be driven forth to the extremities of Asia, to report in their respective countries, that the British government was unable to support the charges which it had deliberately incurred for the *promotion of learning and virtue*; that we were compelled, by the distress of our finances, to violate our faith with the whole body of oriental scholars in India; and that in the extreme and desperate condition of our affairs, we had *abdicated the support of our recent public*

institutions, for the liberal education of the civil service, in those branches of knowledge absolutely necessary to secure the blessings of good government to our native subjects.

128. It is scarcely necessary to repeat, in this place that the revival of Mr. Gilchrist's lectures would have left all these apprehensions and evils in full force, unless that revival had in fact been equivalent to the restoration of all the establishments of the college.

129. Urged, therefore, by these powerful principles of policy, and by these irresistible claims of justice; on the part of the younger branches of your civil service, actually attached to the college; on the part of the learned gentlemen, whose literary services have been devoted to the aid of the institution; and on the part of the learned natives collected from distant parts of Asia, retained in your service under the solemn pledge of public faith, and now successfully employed in diffusing their knowledge among your junior servants, I have resolved, that the order passed by the Governor-General in Council, for the abolition of the College of Fort William, should not take full effect until the 31st of December, 1803.

130. In the mean while, I have issued orders to the governments of Fort St. George and Bombay, directing that such writers of this season, as had arrived at those presidencies respectively from Europe, should be retained; and that no writers belonging to the establishment of either of the subordinate presidencies, should be conveyed to the College of Fort William, until further orders.

131. According to the regulations and statutes, a considerable number of students, from each of the presi-

dencies, will be detached from the College on the ensuing month of December.

132. The operation of the circumstances described in the two preceding paragraphs, will tend to diminish the expenses of the College during the ensuing year. I have, however, judged it to be proper to direct, that such writers as shall arrive in Bengal, with appointments to this establishment, shall be attached to the College, upon their arrival, and shall be admitted to all the benefits of the institution, until the time of its final abolition.

133. I shall issue to the governments of Fort St. George and Bombay, such orders as shall appear to me most conducive to the better instruction of the junior civil servants, retained at each presidency during the ensuing year, and I shall pass such regulations as may be calculated to protect the Company against any considerable expense, from the detention of the writers at each presidency. I am, however, aware, that some inconvenience must necessarily attend the detention of these young men, at their respective presidencies, until the further pleasure of the court, upon the whole subject, shall be communicated to this government. But this inconvenience is inseparable from the nature of the case; viewed in its utmost possible extent, it admits of no comparison with the important considerations already stated in this letter.

134. Among the motives which induced me to protract the existence of the institution until December, 1803, I have dwelt with considerable expectation on the opportunity which this delay will afford to the honourable court, of reviewing the considerations which dictated their orders of the 27th January, 1802, of adverting to the facts and arguments submitted to you in this letter,

and of estimating the result of the important change, effected in the situation of affairs in India, since the date of those advices, which had reached the court in the month of January, 1802, and which appears to have formed the foundation of the court's letter of the 27th of that month.

135. The honourable court, after the receipt of this dispatch, will be enabled to proceed to a final decision of this important question, with information amply sufficient to illustrate all its essential parts; and if the immediate result of the court's renewed deliberation should be to command this government to accelerate the abolition of the college, and to demolish that institution at any period of time earlier than the 31st of December, 1803, you may be assured, that, in the arduous situation which I now hold, I would manifest a prompt and dutiful obedience to an order, which would be founded on a full knowledge of the state of local circumstances in India, and of all the motives which now direct my opinion and conduct.

136. In such an event, I should certainly discharge my duty with promptitude and dispatch; but I must have renounced the fixed conviction of my judgment, and I must have extinguished the warmest sentiments of my heart, before I could discharge such a duty without suffering the most severe pain and regret, in reflecting on the public benefits which must flow from the establishment of this institution, and on the public calamities which must attend its abolition.

137. The objects proposed by the institution are the most interesting, comprehensive, and important, which could be embraced by any public establishment; and their accomplishment is absolutely requisite for the good government and stability of this empire, and for the

maintenance of the interests and honour of the Company, and of the nation in India.

138. Many of those objects have already been accomplished by the effects of the institution under the eyes of this government, and all of them promise to be secured by the continuance and stability of the same system of discipline and study.

139. With such experience, and with such prospects, I cannot abandon the auspicious hope, that the representation submitted to you in this letter, may prove the means of inducing the honourable court to RESTORE to their civil service in India, the INESTIMABLE ADVANTAGES which must be destroyed by the abolition of the College of Fort William, and to suffer the establishment of the College of Fort William to REMAIN UNALTERED, until I shall have the honour of reporting, in person, to the court, the condition and effects of the institution, and of submitting to you such details as may enable the court to exercise its final judgment on the whole plan.

140. The expense of the institution is greatly overbalanced by the importance and magnitude of its beneficial consequences. I should be guilty of disrespect, as well as of injustice towards the East India Company, if I could suggest that the Court of Directors, with a full knowledge of the objects and principles of this institution, and with ample proofs of its actual success, could now admit an opinion, that the sum of money now requisite to defray its charges, might be applied to any purposes more beneficial to the interests of the Company in India.

141. I therefore close this letter, with a perfect confidence that the honourable court will issue, without delay, a positive command for the continuance of the College of Fort William until further orders; and although my

resignation of the office of Governor-general precludes the hope of my being employed as the instrument for restoring this important benefit to these valuable dominions, I shall embark from India with a firm reliance, that my successor will execute the salutary orders of the honourable court, for the RESTORATION of the College of Fort William with the same sentiments of zeal for the public service, and of attachment to the public interests and honour, which induced me to found that institution.

I have the honour to be,
with the greatest respect, and esteem,

SIR,

Your obedient servant,

WELLESLEY.

Fort William, Aug. 5, 1802.

THE END.

A
LETTER TO A FRIEND
ON THE
DUTY OF GREAT BRITAIN
TO DISSEMINATE
CHRISTIANITY IN INDIA.

OCCASIONED BY THE PROPOSED RENEWAL OF THE
CHARTER OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

LONDON:
SOLD BY J. HATCHARD, 190, PICCADILLY.

A
LETTER TO A FRIEND
ON
THE DUTY OF GREAT BRITAIN
TO DISSEMINATE
CHRISTIANITY IN INDIA.

*Occasioned by the proposed Renewal of the Charter
of the East India Company.*

DEAR SIR,

London, 26 March, 1812.

ABOUT two hundred years ago the East India Company was constituted by Royal Charter, with a joint stock, and various rights and privileges, which were confirmed and altered from time to time by successive Acts of Parliament. For many years they possessed no territory in India, but merely factories and ports in the dominions of the several native princes; but about fifty or sixty years ago they began to acquire territory in India, and they soon became the sovereign of a great empire. Their dominions have been gradually increasing ever since; and the present extent of their territorial rights may be best estimated by stating, that, although those vast regions are for the most part by no means well peopled, yet the East Indian Empire is supposed to contain a population of *sixty millions* of souls. Of these about one eighth, or, according to others, one fourth, are Mahomedans; the rest are of a great variety of different sects of idolaters, the most prevailing religion being the worshippers of Brahma, and his various associated deities.

The providence of God has thus brought under our sovereignty a vast portion of the globe, with an immense number of the human race, a number *fourfold* that of the whole population of *Great Britain and Ireland*. But it ought to be stated that the inhabitants of these countries are not merely our *subjects*, though, doubtless, as such, it would be our bounden duty to watch over their interests, and promote their happiness; but the truth is, that they stand in a still closer relation to us, they are in fact our *tenants*. We, filling the place of the old sovereigns of the country, are still proprietors of the soil throughout India, though, much to our honour, about twenty years ago, Mr. Shore, now Lord Teignmouth, was authorized to commence his government by introducing a system which had been begun under his predecessor Lord Cornwallis; that of granting, for the first time, to the great landholders, hereditary property in their estates. The rent paid by them to government was equitably and unalterably settled; and it ought to be added, that care was taken at the same time to secure to the inferior occupants no less than to the great chieftains, the secure possession of

their rights and properties.' It is not, therefore, going too far to affirm, that the inhabitants of India are as much our subjects, and are at least as nearly related to us, as the population of Yorkshire or Lancashire, we might even say, from being our tenants, more nearly related than the inhabitants of those counties.

Such then being the truth, every benevolent mind will inquire, what is the domestic and social state, what the moral and religious condition; what the character and circumstances of this prodigious number of our fellow-creatures! This inquiry will be made with still more solicitude by all in this country who are duly impressed with a sense of moral responsibility to Almighty God; by all who remember that we are answerable for the opportunities we enjoy of doing good to others; nay more, for the use we make of the means afforded us by Providence of learning how good is to be done. Doubtless, in the great day of final retribution, in giving an account of our stewardship, we shall be called on to answer for the misery we might have relieved, for the benefits we might have conferred, for the happiness we might have diffused, if we had not neglected the opportunities with which the providence of God had entrusted us; if we had not shut our eyes against, or turned them away from, the light by which we should have seen how the evil was to be removed or the good to be done.

When this important truth is duly weighed, it becomes an awful consideration, that, after a long course of deception and ignorance, the real state of India has been divulged to the world: more especially, that in this country so much light has been lately thrown on the religious and moral condition, character, and circumstances, of the great mass of the native population of India, that no one, by his means of information ever so scanty, needs now be ignorant of them. It is a melancholy fact, that the picture exhibited to us is of the most gloomy and afflicting kind; that probably for about two thousand years, certainly for many, many centuries, the people of India have been sunk, and though governed justly by us, that they still continue bowed down under one of the most cruel and depraving systems of idolatrous superstition that ever existed upon earth. Until of late years, also, they groaned under the most abject state of political despotism. The consequences cannot be doubtful. Their religious and moral condition, justly estimated, is, perhaps, lower than those of any other civilized people upon earth.

And, as by the general ordination of the moral government of the universe, vice is, even in this life, for the most part connected with suffering, and virtue, with comfort and enjoyment, we can scarcely doubt what is the state, especially in respect of domestic and social happiness, of the great body of the people. The above assertions are so strong, that, although to every considerate mind they might appear no more than natural inferences from what has been long universally known of the political despotism, idolatrous worship, and social and domestic institutions, prevalent in India; yet as contrary opinions have been industriously diffused, especially by some Infidel writers, and have obtained too much credit, it may be useful to settle the point beyond

dispute, by adducing the authority of various witnesses ; some of them well known authors, others whose testimony claims still greater weight ; persons who during a long succession of years held high stations in the East Indies, and who, from having lived many years among the natives, and having had much intercourse with them, must be supposed to have been best acquainted with their real character. Bernier, who travelled among them about one hundred and fifty years ago, places the character of the people in general, and more especially that of the Brahmins, in the most unfavourable light ; but as he no where gives a summary view of it, I will only refer generally to his high authority.

The same unfavourable character of them, and more especially of the Brahmins, is also expressed by Mr. Scrafton*, whose instructive work was published about fifty years ago ; and Mr. Orme, the excellent historian of the Carnatic, leads us to form a still lower estimate of their moral qualities.

Governor Holwell gives a summary account of their character in such clear terms, that his own words shall be quoted. "A race of people who from their infancy are utter strangers to the idea of common faith and honesty. The Gentoos in general are as dangerous and wicked a people as any race of people in the known world, if not eminently more so, especially the common run of Brahmins. We can truly aver, that during almost five years that we presided in the judicial Cutchery Court of Calcutta, never any murder or other atrocious crime came before us, but it was proved in the end a Brahmin was at the bottom of it."

Lord Clive's† testimony is given in the same clear and compendious language. "The inhabitants of this country we know by long experience have no attachment to any obligation."

An equally unfavourable character of them is given by Governor Varel‡, especially in respect of avarice, treachery, and ingratitude."

Mr. Shore,§ (now Lord Teignmouth) paints their character in still darker colours. "The natives are timid and servile. Individuals have little sense of honour, and the nation is wholly void of public virtue. They make not the least scruple of lying, where falsehood is attended with advantage.—To lie, steal, plunder, ravish, or murder, are not deemed sufficient crimes to merit expulsion from society."

"With a Hindoo all is centred in himself ; his own interest is his guide."—With other particulars of a similar complexion.

Sir John Macpherson,|| who was Governor General between twenty and thirty years ago, commenting on the foregoing description, thus confirms the accuracy of the delineation. "I am afraid that the picture which he (Mr. Shore) draws, and the low ebb at which he states the popular virtues of the Bengaleze, are not fictitious representations."

* Reflections on the government of Hindostan, by Luke Scrafton, Esq.

† See Bolt's Considerations, vol. iii.

‡ See Varel's View of the English Government in Bengal.

§ See the Parliamentary Proceedings against Mr. Hastings, Appendix to volume ii.

|| See the Parliamentary proceedings against Mr Hastings, Appendix to vol. ii.

Lord Cornwallis proved by his conduct that he considered the natives as unworthy of all confidence; for, contrary to the general usage of men occupying such stations as he filled, he never reposed any trust in any one of them, nor placed a single individual, either Hindoo or Mahomedan, about his person, above the rank of a menial servant.

It is not perhaps unworthy of notice, that a character equally unfavourable of the natives of Hindostan, was given 400 years ago by their great conqueror Tamerlane. "The native of Hindostan," he says, "has no pretensions to humanity but the figure; whilst imposture, fraud, and deception, are by him considered as meritorious accomplishments."

Such is the estimate we are led to form of the moral state and qualities of the Hindoo population. The moral condition and character of the Mahomedans is somewhat different in its colours, but not of more pleasing hues. "With more knowledge, and more pretensions to integrity, they are as unprincipled as the Hindoos. Their perfidy, however, and licentiousness, are the perfidy and licentiousness of a bolder people."

You will now be prepared for the summary view of the character of the natives of India in general, which has been given by a most intelligent, well-informed, and unprejudiced person, who lived for a long period in a part of India which was inhabited almost entirely by natives. "Upon the whole, we cannot avoid recognizing in the people of Hindostan a race of men lamentably degenerate and base; retaining but a feeble sense of moral obligation; obstinate in the disregard of what they know to be right; governed by malevolent and licentious passions: strongly exemplifying the effects produced on society by great and general corruption of manners: sunk in misery by their vices, in a country peculiarly calculated by its natural advantages to promote the happiness of its inhabitants." Such are the accounts of the natives of Hindostan which are given by a number of unprejudiced witnesses, unconnected with each other, and all having had the most ample means of judging of their real character. Nor will these accounts appear surprising to those who consider the laws by which for many centuries they have been governed, and still more the degrading effects of the political and religious vassalage in which they have been held.

It is an established principle, that the laws of every country are at the same time powerfully operative in producing and continuing the state of its morals and manners, and strongly indicative of that state. I should detain you too long were I to confirm my assertions concerning the Hindoo code by particular extracts. But in general I may safely affirm, that it is impossible to peruse the compilation of their laws without being extremely shocked by the despotic principles which they inculcate; by the partiality which they manifest for the superior castes or classes of society; by the sanction which they give to the grossest immoralities; by the spirit of injustice, oppression, and cruelty, which generally pervades them—Such, generally speaking, is the spirit of the laws of the Hindoos.

As to their political and civil state, it is well known, that, for considerably above 2000 years, they have lived under the most absolute *political despotism*; nay more, under the most galling yoke of *personal degradation*.

But the *religious* system of the Hindoos is even still more detestable than the political. We might indeed anticipate its immoral nature and tendencies merely by considering the character of the whole multitude of Hindoo Deities, male and female. The legends and histories of their actions are innumerable, and in the highest degree extravagant, absurd, and incredible. The most enormous and strange impurities; the most villainous frauds and impostures, the most detestable cruelty and injustice, the most filthy and abominable conceits; every corruption and indulgence, are presented to us in their histories, varied in a thousand forms. Very many of them are perpetuated by images, temples, and ceremonies; and those of such a nature as it were pollution to describe. Representations which abandoned licentiousness durst hardly imagine within the most secret recesses of impurity, are there held up in the face of the sun to all mankind, in durable materials, in places dedicated to Religion; nay, they are the objects of religious adoration, and miniatures are taken from them, and worn by multitudes about the neck. Let those who think this statement overcharged, peruse Dr. Buchanan's account of his visit to the temple of Juggernaut at the time of the annual festival. Is it then conceivable, that the senses and imagination of the people, especially of the youth, should not be utterly depraved by such representations, or that all feelings and ideas of natural modesty should not be confounded and extinguished?

Nor is it only in these ways that the Hindoo Mythology influences the manners of the people: the robber by profession has his tutelary deity, and he who wishes to glut his revenge, does not want a Divine Patroness.

But even the universal prevalence of the grossest idolatry, in which the Supreme Being is represented under a variety of the most shocking and most odious forms, must of itself tend to vitiate the morals of every people among whom it prevails; while they who believe the Bible to be the word of God, need not be told how offensive such practices are to the Supreme Being, or how they cause the Almighty to withdraw his preventing grace from the idolatrous nation, and to leave it "to be given over to a reprobate mind." They will consequently be prepared to hear that any people among whom such a monstrous system of idolatry has so long prevailed, would gradually sink into the lowest depths of licentiousness, wickedness, and cruelty. Remembering, therefore, the representation given in the word of God of the horrible enormities of the Gentile nations,* they will read without astonishment the horrible account given by Doctor Buchanan of the grossly obscene and shockingly bloody superstitions openly exhibited amidst the accla-

* See Romans, Chap. i.

nations of hundreds of thousands of Hindoo worshippers from all parts of India, at the great annual festival before alluded to, at the temple of Jaggernaut: they will not wonder at the shouts of joy that were raised to the God, (a gigantic idol placed on a stupendous car 60 feet in height, and drawn along by six cables, preceded by elephants richly caparisoned, with all that could add splendour to the procession) when a wretched victim offered himself a voluntary sacrifice, and throwin himself on the road before the tower, the multitude leaving a space clear for his passage, he was crushed to death by the wheels. They will not be surprised to read of the thousands of prostitutes maintained for the service of the temple; and as lasciviousness and cruelty are closely combined, they will not wonder at the utter unconcern with which these idolatrous votaries witness the suffering of their fellow-creatures in their most affecting forms — Neither will it excite the wonder of those who have observed the ordinary progress of idolatrous superstitions, to hear that the most savage cruelties are sanctioned by their religious system, under the notion of penance, by which the divine favour is to be conciliated, and the guilt of sin done away. Neither will they be unprepared to hear that an utter want of natural affection is too often displayed, and that at one time, parents, at another, children, become the victims of these barbarous systems of superstition.

It must be unnecessary to descant on the social and personal condition of a people whose religious and civil institutions are such as have been here described. But I ought not to omit the mention of the general condition of the whole *female sex*, who constitute, in every country, one half of the population, and on the situation of whom its general character will so greatly depend. The condition of the female part of the native population of India is more particularly wretched; at best they are degraded into mere instruments of sensual gratification; and the number of those who annually are compelled or seduced into consenting to be burnt alive on the deaths of their husbands (husbands to whom when alive they most probably felt little or no attachment) is vastly greater than has ever been conceived by the generality of the Europeans who have resided in India. A Hindoo of education stated it as his conjecture, that in the *Bengal* provinces alone, the victims thus annually burnt amount to 15,000. We know, that by an actual account which was taken of the women sacrificed within thirty miles round Calcutta in 1803, the number was 275; and the same detailed account having been kept within another district of thirty miles, with a statement of the place where each sacrifice occurred, during the first six months of 1804, the whole number of burnings proved to be considerably above 116 *

But to return to the *general* situation of the female sex. “The

* The total number of these poor creatures thus annually sacrificed in Hindustan, often the mothers of families taken from the midst of their children, (children to member who have just lost their father also) cannot be certainly known. It has been calculated by a very intelligent person long resident in India, and intimately conversant with Indian affairs, at between thirty and forty thousand in the whole of Hindustan.

women," says a most intelligent and excellent man, long resident in India, "are truly an unfortunate part of the community, and greatly to be pitied. Receiving no education, disposed of in marriage without their own consent, or knowing any thing of the person to whom they are to be given, they are immured for life, and made mere servants in the family of their despotic lord. If barren, or bearing only daughters, they are neglected; and not always released from oppression even when death removes the husband; for they are then frequently reduced to the alternative of sinking into a state of infamy, or of burning themselves with his dead body."

On the whole, then, especially when we take into account how much the personal qualities and general character of every people are formed by the female part of the community, it cannot surprise us, that, living for ages under such a religious, political, legal, and social system as has been described, the inhabitants of Hindustan should be such as they have been represented by one who had long lived among them, "A people void of public spirit, honour, attachment, and (speaking of them as a society) base, dishonest, and faithless."

I have thus given you a general, though a slight and hasty sketch of the character and situation of the native Indian population. Such is the depraved condition, such the deplorable state, of the inhabitants of an immense region which Providence has entrusted to our care. Must not then every humane mind feel for them the strongest emotions of pity, and the most earnest longings to amend, if possible, their wretched state? Must not every Christian mind be convinced that it has no option; but that, if it possesses the power of mitigating these evils, it is bound by the most powerful obligations of duty to exert it? Thanks be to God! we are justified by the decided judgment of several of those who are acknowledged by all mankind to be the best informed and most experienced in all East India concerns, who have been long resident in the country, and have administered its affairs, in conceiving that we need not be deterred by any considerations of temporal interest from obeying the dictates of duty and the impulse of feeling. This persuasion more especially has been declared to the world by a great and good man (Lord Teignmouth), who, after serving the Company for above five and twenty years in various subordinate offices, and after having been associated for the last three or four of them with Lord Cornwallis in the Supreme Council, when some changes of extreme importance were to be made in the East India Company's system, was, without recommendation or interest, selected, solely on the ground of his high integrity, tried abilities, and perfect acquaintance with East India affairs, to fill the high office of Governor General of Bengal. A few years ago he published to the world his sentiments on this subject, and distinctly declared his clear and strong persuasion that it was not only practical but expedient, on grounds of political interest, as well as just and right on the principles of religion and humanity, to communicate, prudently and discreetly, to the natives of India, the knowledge of Christianity; and thereby, through the Divine blessing, to

improve their wretched state in this world, as well as to open to their view the prospect of eternal happiness. Shall Lord T's judgment of East India affairs, so highly and universally respected in every other particular, be called in question in this instance only?

With so high a testimony in our favour, it must be needless to call in other authorities, otherwise we might confirm Lord Teignmouth's judgment by the opinions of several other gentlemen, whose intimate and thorough acquaintance with East India interests is universally acknowledged.

Unhappily, however, partly from the general ignorance in this country of the real condition of the East Indian population; partly from our not having been in the habit of considering the natives of Hindustan as our fellow-subjects, or rather, it must be repeated, as our tenants; and consequently from not adverting to their peculiar claims to our fostering and protecting care; partly, also, from the immense distance at which those countries are removed from us, as well as from their never falling under our personal view; above all, perhaps, from that indifference to the idolatrous and cruel rites of the native superstitions which is produced, but too naturally, by witnessing them for many years, with scarcely once, perhaps, during that long period, engaging, or having the opportunity of engaging, in Christian worship; the public conscience, if I may so term it, of this country, has never been awakened and roused to the consideration of this subject. Doubtless, if the same superstitions, or the same barbarous and licentious rites, which are now exhibited on the banks of the Ganges, or at the Temple at Jaggernaut, were to be practised on the banks of the Thames, or even in the remotest part of the British Islands, they could not long be kept secret; they could not be denied or explained away; they would doubtless excite the strongest possible feelings of horror, and stimulate our efforts to substitute a purer and more benign system in the place of this compound of cruelty and crime. But surely, to the eye of reason, the distance of that part of our dominions in which this vicious system prevails, makes no real difference. It is equally a portion of our empire, subject to our rule, and contributing largely to our prosperity.

If these various circumstances which have been stated are attentively and seriously weighed, they will exhibit a most extraordinary phenomenon—the most enlightened, improved, and (may we not fairly say) the most religious nation upon earth, standing for many years in the closest of all social relations to a people bowed down under a dark and degrading system of idolatry, as well as under the most debasing yoke of political and personal bondage. Might it not be very naturally supposed by those who acknowledge the hand of a superintending Providence in the varying fortunes of nations, that it had been the design of Heaven in bringing those vast countries under the dominion of a nation enjoying the purest of all systems of religion, that their benighted and depraved inhabitants might thus receive the light of Christian truth, and the blessings of a sound morality?

They, however, who might hesitate to accede to this proposition, would readily acknowledge, that it is at least our duty to endeavour in every way to promote the *temporal* well-being and happiness of our Oriental fellow-subjects. And it is to be hoped, that the temporal benefits for which this quarter of the globe is indebted to the religion of Christ, are so generally acknowledged, that it will not be denied even by sceptics themselves. Sceptics have often acknowledged that the social and domestic comfort, as well as the moral improvement of any nation, can by no other means be so effectually advanced as by the general reception of Christianity.

Nevertheless, though the duty of enlightening the natives was not forgotten by the Portuguese when they possessed considerable territory in India, nor even by the Dutch in the Island of Ceylon, scarcely any attempts have been hitherto made by our own countrymen, though now for above fifty years their possessions in India have been so immensely great.

For above a century past, long indeed before we possessed any territory in India, two or three missionaries, chiefly Danes or Germans, have been maintained in the South of India by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge; and if there were room for the discussion, it would be a delightful office to state the excellent character of some of these good men, and, what is still more to my present purpose, the high respect in which they were universally held among all ranks of the natives. But though time will not allow me to enlarge on this topic; yet, in order to disprove the confident assertions which have been often made concerning the extreme tenderness with which the natives feel, and the anger with which they resent any opposition, however peaceable, to their religious opinions and usages, it may be sufficient to state the undeniable and indeed well-known fact, that the most active and zealous missionaries in the East Indies have not seldom been the most universally popular among the natives; and more especially, that of the foremost of them all, in point of order and success, Mr. Swartz, was, during a long life, most highly respected and beloved by all ranks and classes of the native population; and was able, by the estimation in which he was held, and by the confidence which his known integrity had inspired, to render, in more than one distressing exigency, the most essential service to his country. But what could a single missionary or two effect in the immense extent of our East Indian dominions? It was obviously but a drop in the ocean.

When the East India Company's Charter was last renewed, in 1793, those vast regions were given into the hands of the Board of Controll, and the Directors of the East India Company; and though other interests were attended to, those of religion were forgotten by the Legislature; and the few missionaries whose zeal has prompted them within these few years, unwarranted by law, and in spite of every discouragement, to labour in the East Indian field, not being permitted to go out in the ships of this country, or with the consent of those who had

the superintendence of East India affairs, have been obliged to find their way to India by difficult and circuitous channels, and were liable at any moment to be sent out of the country—a fate which probably they would have experienced but for the generous and liberal minds of the Governors General of India, and (it must be added) their own extraordinary qualifications and merits.*

The East India Company's Charter is now about to be again renewed; and it therefore now becomes the duty of the Legislature to attend to the religious interests, as well as the social and domestic happiness, of the natives. *But let it be seriously considered, it becomes no less the duty of the constituent body to testify to the Legislature the deep interest with which it feels on this great question.* Let it not be said, that however it may be a national concern, no particular class of individuals can plead any distinct interest in it. Surely the nation is made up of individuals, and every single individual has, or ought to have, an interest, and a deep interest too, not only in the national welfare, but in that which is inseparably connected with its welfare, the national virtue and honour, on the one hand, the national guilt and shame on the other. What particular or personal interest had the greater part of the people of Great Britain in the discontinuance of the Slave Trade? Yet we know that on no subject were the petitions to the two Houses of Parliament ever more numerous or more forcible. On no occasion did the public voice speak more loudly and powerfully; on none perhaps with happier effects. I can scarcely doubt that every considerate and well informed Christian will grant, that now, when, blessed be God, the Slave Trade is abolished, our studiously barring out the light of divine truth, or, without saying a word, or suffering it, with all its attendant benefits, to be barred out from the immense continent of India, our not eagerly endeavouring to promote the communication to that hitherto ill-rated country, of the blessings of Christianity, would be by far the greatest of our national crimes; and surely in such circumstances as those in which this country is now placed, with the prospect around us already so gloomy and tempestuous, yet still continuing to gather fresh blackness, every one who is not convinced that the Bible is a forgery, will be anxious to use that measure of influence, whether greater or smaller, for which he will be responsible at the day of judgment, in delivering his country from this heavy load of guilt and inhumanity.

Though I have been drawn into greater length than I intended, I am conscious that, fearful of prolixity, I have given you a very superficial and scanty statement of this extensive and copious subject. For the most part I have abstained from particulars; but there are two recent occurrences, with the more pleasing colours of which I am glad to relieve the general darkness of the picture which I have had to set before you. The rather, because they will serve at once to answer objections, and to encourage our hopes, by reflecting no small

* Unhappily an excellent man was lately ordered out of the country, under the most distressing circumstances, immediately after his arrival,

measure of light on the practicability of putting an end, by just and prudent means, to the abominations of the East Indies. In truth, the lessons which they teach are so important, that it would be extreme injustice to my argument, altogether to omit the mention of them. They shall be stated, however, briefly and generally.

The first is, the abolition of the practice which prevailed among the Hindoos, of parents destroying their own children. Lord Wellesley had been informed, that it had been a custom of the Hindoos to sacrifice children, in consequence of vows, by drowning them, or exposing them to sharks and crocodiles; and that twenty-three had perished at Saugor in one month (January 1801), many of whom were sacrificed in this manner. He immediately instituted an inquiry into the principle of this ancient atrocity; heard what natives and Europeans had to say on the subject; and then passed a law "declaring the practice to be murder, punishable by death." The law is entitled, "A Regulation for preventing the sacrifice of Children at Saugor and other places;" passed by the Governor-General, in Council, on the 20th of August, 1802. The purpose of this regulation was completely effected. *Not a murmur was heard on the subject*; nor has any attempt of the kind come to the knowledge of the public since. It is impossible to calculate the number of human lives that have been saved, during the last ten years, by this humane law. Yet had the noble Lord possessed a less sagacious understanding, or a less humane and independent mind, the apprehensions urged by too many, of opposing the superstitious practices of the natives, would have prevented this merciful regulation.

The other instance is of still greater magnitude and importance, both in its own nature, and in the conclusions to which it leads.

For two thousand years at least, a custom had existed in a particular tribe in a distant province in India, of murdering the female infants, alleging that theirs was a warlike tribe, that it was expensive to breed up daughters, difficult to marry them; and, in short, that it was a much better plan for them to buy wives when they wanted them, from other tribes, than to train them up themselves. To render the deed, if possible, more horrible, the mothers were commonly the executioners of their own offspring. The numbers annually thus destroyed cannot be ascertained with certainty; the lowest accounts state it to be above 3000; other accounts calculate it at 20, and even 30,000 annually. Our Resident at Benares, Mr. Duncan, and afterwards Colonel Walker, for it is due to them to mention their names, having ascertained the existence of this practice, resolved, if possible, to effect the abolition of it.

Colonel Walker (it is due to Mr. Duncan to state that he was now removed to the government of Bombay) was indefatigable in his endeavours to produce in the minds of the various tribes in that part of the country, a conviction of the guilt and cruelty of this horrid practice. The answer, however, which in 1807 was made by the principal chieftains of the tribe in which this dreadful practice subsisted, was sufficiently discouraging. They alleged that for 4900 years they

had been in the habit of killing their daughters; and that none of the great powers which from time to time had been Sovereigns of Hindustan had ever interfered with them; nay, hints were thrown out in some of the letters which would have been enough to intimidate a man of less firmness as well as sagacity than Colonel Walker: still he persevered, and his conduct, with the effects of it, affords an useful lesson to those, who, in their endeavours to diffuse the light of Christian truth in India, may tremble at the first symptom of opposition from the Brahmins. He persevered, and it is scarcely credible, but it is nevertheless indisputably true, that within twelve months of the date of the very answer above-mentioned, the writers of them themselves formally abjured the practice of infanticide, and with their wives, families, and dependents, declared themselves happy in entering into an arrangement for this purpose. I should wrong my readers if I were not to go on to state what passed when, about two or three years afterwards, Colonel Walker visited that part of the country. I will quote Colonel Walker's own words: "I had all those infants in the immediate neighbourhood, who were capable of attending (the female infants who had been rescued from death by his humane exertions) brought to my tent; many were too young to be brought to any distance. It was extremely gratifying on this occasion to observe the triumph of nature, feeling, and parental affection, over prejudice and a horrid superstition; and that those who, but a short period before, would, as many of them had done, have doomed their infants to destruction without compunction, should now glory in their preservation, and doat on them with fondness.*" It is added that, as the visit was premeditated, several officers and gentlemen assembled to witness so extraordinary a scene. The Jarejah fathers, who but a short time back would not have listened to any proposal which should have been made to them for the preservation of their daughters, now exhibited them with pride and fondness. Their mothers and nurses also attended on this interesting occasion. The emotions of nature here exhibited were extremely moving. The mothers placed their infants in the hands of Colonel Walker, calling upon him and their gods to protect what he alone had taught them to preserve. These infants they emphatically called "*his children*;" and it is likely that this distinction will continue to exist for some years in Guzerat.

Doubtless, if any of those who have argued that to attempt to enlighten, and I had almost said to humanize, those who have been for so many hundred years given over to a dark and depraving superstition, had been consulted before-hand on the practicability and expediency of effecting the abolition of the above horrid practice of infanticide, they would have pronounced the attempt at once utterly hopeless, nay, highly dangerous; yet *in the short space of two or three years was this detestable custom voluntarily abandoned*. And here, in order to guard against misrepresentation, it may not be improper to state, that, of course, it must be intended, that in effecting the Reforms for which I am so anxious, it is intended that *only the methods of reason and argu-*

* See Moor's Hindoo Infanticide, towards the end of the volume.

ment and persuasion should be used. Not only no force, but no influence should be exerted. Perhaps the hand of Government should not be seen at all on the occasion. Happily it has at length become an established opinion, though it is a truth which was so long undiscovered, that persecution in all its forms only serves to diffuse the opinions which it endeavours to extirpate. It is needless, however, for me here to go into particulars; probably even the legislature itself will think it best to leave these to the judgment and prudence of the friends of religion on the spot; acting, as they will have to act, under the constant superintendence and controul of the executive government. The varying circumstances of different provinces, and probably the progressive changes which may be expected to take place during a course of years, will suggest suitable, but probably different modes of proceeding. I will only state, that I look with the fondest hopes to the diffusion of the Holy Scriptures in the different native languages, and probably to the education of the native youth, any offers of which would most likely be accepted with thankfulness.

Happily several occurrences have lately taken place, and many considerations might be urged, besides those which are suggested by the two instances already stated, which may justly excite the delightful expectation, that, if our countrymen do at length proceed to wipe away the reproach which has been so often cast on them by the Roman Catholic writers, that we Protestants have ever shewn ourselves indifferent about the conversion of the benighted Pagans—their endeavours will not be in vain. But surely, it would fix this stigma upon us in deep and indelible characters, if now, when throughout the whole Island of Great Britain the mercantile and manufacturing classes are calling on the House of Commons, as it were with one voice, to put an end to the commercial monopoly, and to exclude them no longer from the benefits of a free trade with India, the Christian world of all denominations, all, who, however differing in circumstantialities, “name the name of Christ,” and profess to believe his religion to be a revelation from God, should shew themselves indifferent respecting the continuance of an exclusion of a still more important kind, the exclusion of Christian light and moral improvement. Truly might it be in that case said our blessed Saviour’s remark is here exemplified, “that the children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light.” It is likewise a consideration well worthy of being remarked, that while every other religion in India is left to its own undisturbed operation; while the various classes and sects (for they are very numerous) of the Hindoos, with all the other varieties of Paganism, are left to their own free unobstructed course, difficulties and obstacles have been interposed in the way of Christianity alone; and ever let it be kept in mind, that all which is desired is, that Christianity and its teachers may be *tolerated*. Yet (the very statement of the proposition will shock every reader who believes Christianity to be a Revelation from Heaven) there have not been wanting those who in plain terms have called on the British government to exert its power, in order to

bar out every scattered ray of that religious and moral light, which, through the endeavours of any charitable individual among us, might otherwise shine on the inhabitants of that benighted land. Excuse the importunate earnestness with which I press this most important topic; and let me once more repeat the declaration, that if we admit the divine authority of the Scriptures, and the doctrine of a superintending Providence, so explicitly inculcated, and so fully illustrated by innumerable examples in the word of God; still farther, if we believe that the decline and fall of states are the judicial inflictions of a Divine hand; that national misfortunes and miseries are God's punishments of guilty nations; let Great Britain beware lest she provoke the Divine displeasure, by continuing to take idolatry, with all its guilt, into her special patronage, and endeavouring to shut out all knowledge of the God of Christians; I had almost said to bar out all access to the Almighty.

But let every individual in this country beware also that he do not incur by his negligence, only the next inferior degree of guilt, by silently conniving at the continuance of such a system, and by not plainly and publicly, though respectfully, declaring to the two houses of Parliament the deep interest which he feels on this great occasion; by forbearing, in short, to express his conviction, that any Act of Parliament which shall lay down the future system of government for India, ought to prescribe some regulations for communicating to the natives, or *rather for preventing the door being barred against those who might wish to communicate to them the blessings of Christian light and moral improvement, thereby introducing among them by degrees an increased measure of social and domestic happiness.*

We perfectly know, from experience, that the Directors of the East India Company are, to speak in the softest terms, not of themselves disposed to communicate to Hindustan the light of Christian instruction. We must also add, with whatever pain, that, hitherto, that part of the executive government of Great Britain which superintends and controls the Court of Directors, has not shewn any disposition favourable to this great object. Perhaps they might not feel themselves warranted by the act of 1793 to promote the conversion of the natives, however indirectly. But, under such circumstances, can the public be justified in giving over once more into their hands, for probably a fresh period of twenty-one years, that vast country, with all its immense population, without securing for such well recommended persons as may wish to engage in so benevolent a work, the right of endeavouring to communicate to the natives (let it again be observed by such safe and prudent means as shall not in any degree disturb the public peace) the blessings of true religion, and moral and social reformation. It was justly remarked by one of the ablest and most active of the writers who have opposed all attempts at converting the natives of India, that the guilt, if any, of having wholly abstained from such endeavours, was not justly chargeable on the East India Company's Directors, nor yet on the Board of Control, but on the Legislature, which prescribed to

both the principles on which the government was to be conducted. The *Legislature*, on its part, if it should be censured for neglecting these most important of all interests, would be able, with no less justice, to *shift the blame* on the constituent body, *if the people of England*, being thoroughly aware that on former occasions Parliament had shewn no concern about the religious interests of the natives, *should forbear expressing* (as they never fail to do, by petition to the two Houses, when any occasion worthy of notice requires their interference), but more especially to their own representatives, *the deep interest which they take in the decision of this great question*.

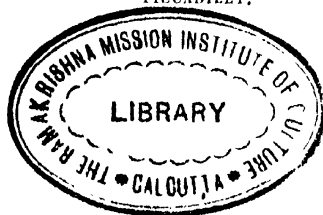
Let all who call themselves Christians regulate their conduct on the present occasion by the golden rule of doing to others as in similar circumstances we would have them do to us, and the path of duty will be clear before them; I will also add, the decision of the Legislature, it may be hoped, would scarcely be any longer doubtful.

I am yours, &c.

A CHRISTIAN.

LONDON.

PRINTED FOR J. WATKINS, BOOKSELLER TO THE QUEEN,
PICCADILLY.



T. Bensley, Printer,
Bolt Court, Fleet Street, London.

THE
SECOND
Annual Report
OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPORT OF
GAELIC SCHOOLS.

WITH AN
APPENDIX
RESPECTING THE PRESENT STATE OF
The Highlands and Islands of Scotland,
The Operations of the Committee, &c.

EDINBURGH:
PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY,
By A. Balfour, Merchant Court.
SOLD BY OLIPHANT, WAUGH AND INNES, HUNTER'S SQUARE;
MANNERS AND MILLER, CROSS; AND W. WHYTE,
ST ANDREW'S STREET; BY L. B. SEELEY,
LONDON; AND L. GRANT AND CO.
INVERNESS.

1813.

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LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

- I. The sole object of this Institution being to teach the Inhabitants, of the Highlands and Islands, to read the Sacred Scriptures in their Native tongue, the designation of the Society shall be, "*THE SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPORT OF GAELIC SCHOOLS.*"
- II. For the accomplishment of this object, the Society shall maintain *Circulating Schools*, in which the Gaelic language only shall be taught.
- III. Each Subscriber of *Half-a-Guinea* annually, shall be a Member of the Society.
- IV. A Subscriber of *Ten Guineas* at one time, shall be a Member for life.
- V. An Annual Subscriber of *Three Guineas*, or a Benefactor of *Twenty Guineas*, shall be a Governor.
- VI. The Office-bearers of the Society shall consist of a President, six Vice-Presidents, a Committee of twenty-four, a Treasurer, three Secretaries, and a Clerk. One of the Vice-Presidents and six of the Committee to go out annually by rotation; the Treasurer, Secretaries, and Clerk, to be annually elected.
- VII. None of the Office-bearers, except the Clerk, shall draw any emolument for their services to the Society.
- VIII. The business of the Society shall be conducted by the Committee of Management, consisting of the whole of the Office-bearers and Governors, —*five* to be a quorum.
- IX. The Committee shall have a stated meeting on the second Monday of every Month, and shall meet also at such other times as they shall find necessary.
- X. The Committee shall have power to call General Meetings of the Society, when they think it necessary to do so;—ten days notice being given by public advertisement.
- XI. A General meeting of the Society shall be annually held in the month of November, on a day to be fixed by the Committee, of which proper intimation shall be given. At this Meeting the Office-bearers shall be elected, the Accounts presented, the transactions of the foregoing year reported, and the general instructions of the Society communicated to their Committee.

Extract from the Minutes of the Second Annual Meeting of the SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPORT OF GAELIC SCHOOLS, held in the New Rooms, Royal Exchange Coffee House, on Friday the 27th day of November 1812.

THE Right Honourable the President of the Society being prevented from attending the Meeting, on account of his duty in Parliament; one of the Vice-Presidents, ROBERT SCOTT MONCRIEFF, Esq. of Newhalls, was called to the Chair.

The Second Annual Report of the Committee of Management was read by the Secretary;—when the Meeting was addressed by the Rev. DAVID DICKSON of St Cuthbert's, and upon his motion, seconded by JOHN WAUGH, Esq. it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

“ That the Report of the Committee be received and adopted: and that it be printed, together with an Appendix of Correspondence, &c. a List of Subscribers and Donors; and a state of Account.”

On the Motion of Dr CHARLES STUART, it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

“ That the thanks of this Society be given to the Friends in Glasgow, for their zealous co-operation, and very great exertions in aid of this Institution.”

It was moved by the Rev. Dr JOHN JAMIESON, and

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

“ That the thanks of the Society be given to the British and Foreign Bible Society, for their very liberal donation of Gaelic Bibles and Testaments.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

On the Motion of the Rev. THOMAS BROWN, Dalkeith, seconded by Mr JOHN ROBERTSON, "That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Friends in London, Liverpool, the North of Scotland, and other places mentioned in the Report, for the liberal support which they have afforded to the Society.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

On the Motion of the Treasurer, "That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Collector, the Supervisors, and Officers of Excise, in the Argyll District, for their generous donation in aid of the Society.

It was then moved, by the Rev. THOMAS BROWN, seconded, and

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

"That the thanks of the Society be given to the Members of the Committee, for their exertions during the past year, and particularly to the Secretary and Treasurer, for the great trouble and attention which they have bestowed on the interests of this Society."

On the motion of the Secretary, the unanimous thanks of the Society were then voted to ROBERT SCOTT MONCRIEFF, Esq. for his conduct in the chair, and his kind attention to the business of this Meeting.

A List of the Office-bearers, for the ensuing Year, which were chosen at this Meeting, will be found in pages third and fourth.

Annual Report.

Edinburgh, 27th November, 1812.

THE Committee of Management have now to submit to the SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPORT OF GAELIC SCHOOLS, in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, an account of their transactions, during the second year of the Institution.

It was the recommendation of your former Committee, sanctioned by the last Annual Meeting, that the state of this Country, as far as it relates to the necessity for instructing its inhabitants in reading their native tongue, should be referred to annually. With regard to the details then laid before the public by your Society, one clergyman, the Rev. William Fraser of Kilchrenan, has said, "The picture of Highland parishes, so faithfully drawn by your correspondents in the North, I have had occasion often to contemplate, with emotions of pity and regret, despairing of ever seeing a general scheme adopted for removing the many obstacles to religious instruction, which exist in so extended and scattered a population. It is the lot, and I trust will be the honour of your Society, to have chosen a plan for this pious purpose, which is, at once, simple in its operation, and I think adequate to the accomplishment of the object in view.—The representation contained in your Report, applies, in the most material circumstances, to the whole district of the Highlands, with which I am best acquainted: I mean the west coast, extending from Applecross in Ross-shire, to the south end of Kintyre in Argyle,

shire, including some of the largest, and several of the small adjacent islands. In different parts of that extensive district, I have had occasion, for years, to officiate as a Teacher of Youth, a Missionary Minister, and Established Clergyman, and I have reason to believe, that the majority of the inhabitants, of all ranks, will cordially co-operate with so benevolent and patriotic an institution as yours, when its object is once fairly and accurately stated to them, which can most effectually be done, by as extensive a circulation of your Report as possible."

There is one tract of country, on the Mainland, which was not mentioned in the Report of last year, respecting which the present Committee are able to furnish you with some particulars. "I have made," says our correspondent, the Rev. Daniel Dewar, Strontian, "I have made, in the company of some English friends, an extensive tour through most of the Hebrides, as well as through Arisaig, Moidart, North and South Morrer, Knodart, &c. and I am now most deeply convinced of the utility, and the necessity of your Society. I made it my business to make enquiries as to the abilities of the people to read, and have seldom met with any one of the common people, in the districts I have mentioned, capable of reading either English or Gaelic. There is no School in Canna, containing upwards of four hundred souls;---no School in the extensive district of Moidart. The moral and religious state of this people must be truly pitiable, since between the Parish-church of Ardnamurchan and that of Glenelg, there is but one Missionary Minister. Pray, unfold the map, and look at the immense regions which intervene. I mention this, with no other view, than to excite the pity of your Society towards the moral condition of a people, who are labouring under the greatest disadvantages. It is in vain that the

benevolence of Christians gives them the Bible, in their own language, unless you extend to them the power of reading it."

A number of interesting particulars relating to the Highlands and Islands, will be found in the Correspondence, which your Committee recommend to be printed, in the Appendix to their Report, and parts which may be read to the Meeting.* At the same time let it be remarked, that, in addition to the painful statements which have already been published, more ample information might have been obtained, had not those districts which were known to stand in such urgent need of education, completely occupied the attention of your Committee.

We proceed, therefore, to lay before you an account of the Schools, which are at present supported by your Institution, including the space of one year, viz. from the date of your last Annual Report.

The Gaelic Schools which have been fully appointed, amount to twenty in number; ten of which are placed in different parishes on the Mainland, and ten in the Western Islands. The different Stations will now be mentioned in regular succession, beginning with those on the Mainland, and describing them from north to south.

I. *Badantarbet*, in the Aird of Coigach, Parish of Lochbroom. This, which is the School farthest north, was the first which your Society established in the Highlands: consequently the inhabitants have enjoyed the privilege of one winter and one summer session. At the conclusion of the former session, a period of only five months, children,

* See Appendix, Part First and Second.

from eight to twelve years of age, were found qualified to read not only the First Book, but the Psalm-book, and parts of the Sacred Scriptures. "The whole acquitted themselves so well, (says the Rev. Dr Ross, Minister of the parish,) that I have very seldom, in all my life, experienced more real satisfaction, than I did during the few hours that I spent among them. It is truly gratifying to think, that in the short space of five months, so great a change should happen, in so extensive a district of country, as that which has happened, in the Aird of Coigach, since November last;—a change, by which the Scriptures of truth are now accessible, from day to day, in so many families and villages, which before that time were involved in comparative ignorance and darkness."

Thirty-five scholars attended during the winter, and thirty through the summer session, by which period, "the people (says Dr Ross) having once got a taste for learning, are not satisfied with their children being able merely to read Gaelic,—a number of them pay the Teacher for instructing them also in reading English, and writing, at *extra hours*."* Of the thirty who attended this School during the summer, although nearly the half could not read upon entering, and the rest were reading but imperfectly; at the conclusion of three months, eight were reading the Spelling-book, and six the Psalm-book; eight were able to read the New, and seven the Old Testament. The Teacher has been continued for another session, at Badantarbett, when it is hoped the people will be able to retain, if not to extend, the benefits received through the bounty of your Institution.

II. *Keppoch*, which is the largest hamlet in Lochbroom,

* See Appendix, Part Second, No. I.

lies in the district called the Little Strath. A Widow of excellent character, residing here, had been engaged in teaching all the neighbouring children who came to her, gratuitously, when she was strongly recommended to the Committee. A School has therefore been appointed, for five months, in this hamlet, of which this woman is the Teacher. At the opening of the School, by Dr Ross, on Monday the 2d of this month, the number of names taken down by him for attendance, was seventy-seven; among whom were "the fathers and mothers with their children."

III. *Monkcastle.* Next to Badantarb, this is the most necessitous district in the parish of Lochbroom. A School has therefore been placed at this station for the ensuing winter, and the Teacher has before this period commenced his labours.---Thus there are three Schools fixed, during this winter, in Lochbroom. It was the incumbent duty of your Committee to provide for this very extensive parish, which was so affectingly described, in the Correspondence annexed to your last Report. A population of at least four thousand souls are here scattered over a surface of a thousand square miles.

IV. *Melivaig.* Proceeding southward.---In the parish of Gairloch, a Circulating School was established at Melivaig, on the west coast of Scotland. The Teacher has been employed, without intermission, at this station for the space of nine months, viz. from January last to September. He began to teach about 7 or 8 in the morning, and was occupied during the whole of the day; and besides his regular employment in the School, he occasionally taught from house to house. In a letter dated 11th October, the Rev. James Russel, minister of the parish, writes as fol-

lows. "About six weeks ago, I went to Melivaig, to examine the Gaelic School there, and was highly gratified in seeing upwards of seventy scholars, of different ages, applying themselves to their books, few of whom had ever had a book in their hand before N. Nicolson's appearance among them. My pleasure was of no ordinary kind, upon hearing several of them read the Scriptures readily, seeing others far advanced, and all of them making progress." By the report of the Teacher, now laid on the table, it appears, that seventy-seven persons have derived benefit from his instructions. viz. nineteen men, twenty-five women, and thirty-three children. Of the forty-four grown-up people, ten are reading the Old, three the New Testament, and thirty-one the First Book and Psalm-book. Of the thirty-three children, eight are reading the New Testament, and twenty-five the First Book and Psalm-book. Your Committee have pleasure in stating, that in this parish seventy-two persons have learned to read Gaelic, without the aid of the English language, or the assistance of a regular Teacher, by the dint of perseverance alone. The books furnished by the Society, to the School at Melivaig, were almost without exception *purchased* by the people at the reduced prices affixed to them. In this district it has been deemed proper to continue the School some time longer, after which it is probable the people of another place, called Saund, may be favoured with the Teacher's residence among them, during next summer.

V. *Scatwell*, which comes next in order, lies to the east of Gairloch, in the parish of Contin. This district is above five miles distant from the Parish Church, and separated from it by a very large and rapid river, the Conan, and also by the river Rasay. The inhabitants stand in

the greatest need of instruction; indeed they never had a School of any kind in Scatwell. There are many people in the place, both old and young, and they were most willing to receive a Teacher. On the second of this month the School was opened--when a considerable number of scholars entered immediately, and more soon followed. Several persons, who did not know a letter of the alphabet, in about fifteen days were able to read words of one and two syllables.

VI. *Calnukile*, is situated on the west coast of Scotland, in the parish of Applecross. This is a populous tenant farm, in the neighbourhood of two others, and distant from the Parish Church and Parochial School, about four miles of rugged mossy road. A School has been appointed at this station for the ensuing winter.

VII. *Jeantown*. In the parish of Loch Carron, contiguous on the south to that of Applecross, at the new village of Jeantown, a Gaelic School commenced on the 2d current. Already seventy-two scholars are attending,---twenty-one of which are aged from 23 to 50 years of age, sixteen from 20 to 23, and the rest below that age. The females, of different ages, attend in the morning from eight to half past nine o'clock; boys and girls from half past ten to four; the young and old men from half past five to nine at night. The whole are stated to be very anxious to learn; some of the old Men and Women having acquired the alphabet very rapidly.

VIII. *Muirshialich*. This School is placed between Muirshialich and Barr, upon the banks of the Caledonian Canal, in the parish of Kilmalie. The Teacher is at pre-

sent on his way to this station, which is five miles distant from any means of instruction, and will open his School in the beginning of December. The people, we are informed, will eagerly embrace the opportunity afforded them of being taught their native language.

IX. *Moydart*. This tract of country, which is about eighteen miles long by seven broad, on the west coast of Scotland, has already been referred to in this Report, as standing in great need of education. The Teacher will continue for five months in this district, and at the station where he can teach with most advantage.

X. *Kilmorie*, in Ardnamurchan. The Teacher for this station, which is already prepared for his reception, will open his School by the beginning of next month.

XI. *Pebble, or Bayble*. The Committee now proceed to mention the Schools which have been established in the *Islands*, the northmost of which is situated at Pebble, in the district of Uii, parish of Stornoway, Isle of Lewes. This Teacher seems to have acquitted himself, in a manner much to the satisfaction of those, who have witnessed his conduct and exertions. He is placed in a neck of land, called the Aird, extending from the town of Stornoway to the east. He began teaching about the middle of December last. The first night he had only three scholars, but the next he had twenty, and after this, the number gradually increased to sixty-six in all, according to his report now laid before you. He has taught, without any interval, for the space of ten months, and seldom had fewer than fifty scholars. At seven in the morning, he began regularly, and in the winter, at that hour, by candle-light;

dismissed at nine or ten, and assembling at ten or eleven, he continued till four in the afternoon. The School commenced again about five, when it continued till ten at night, and occasionally even to twelve. In a letter dated Stornoway, 5th May 1812, from the Rev. Colin Mackenzie, he says, "When I lately examined the scholars, to the number of about fifty young and old persons, of both sexes, I was delighted to find, that their progress had far exceeded my most sanguine expectations, some spelling, some reading many of the Psalms, in their own native language, who a few months before, did not know a letter." Of those who benefited by this Teacher's instructions, by the month of October, twenty-one were reading the First Book, and twenty-four the Psalm-book; eighteen were reading the New, and three the Old Testament. The School continues at the same place for five months longer, when the inhabitants of another district, viz. Gress, on the other side of Loch Tua, will be ready to receive the Teacher for a summer session.

It is but justice to state here, that your Committee have been much pleased with accounts respecting the School in the town of Stornoway, under the patronage of the Society in Scotland for propagating Christian Knowledge. The attendance there has increased to such a degree, that it has been resolved, we understand, to include the modern improvements in education, and conduct the School upon the Lancastrian plan.

XII. *North Uist.* Of this Island, an account has been published in your last Appendix. By a letter, dated the 10th instant, we are informed, the Teacher was about to leave the Isle of Skye, by the first packet, for his station in North Uist; where the people, it is said, "are highly de-

lighted with the views of the Society, and long much for the appearance of an Instructor."

XIII. *Clachan*, in the district of East Side, parish of Kilmuir, Isle of Skye. The Teacher has been employed for one summer session, viz. three months, from the fifteenth day of June to the fifteenth of September. The number of scholars had increased to one hundred and four, of which fourteen are from 35 to 40 years of age, thirty-two between 15 and 26, and fifty-eight are children. "By the accounts I have," says a correspondent, the Rev. John Shaw of Diurnish, "the School in Kilmuir is doing charmingly. I cannot be particular, as I speak from report, but the report is delightful and animating. I find it has reached the common people here, where I trust it will have the happiest effects."

XIV. *Hearlosh and Roag*, in the parish of Diurnish, Isle of Skye. At this station, about two hundred inhabitants are situated close upon each other, and as many more can derive benefit from the School in good weather. The Teacher's arrival was anxiously expected, and Mr Macleod of Macleod had kindly offered to take care that suitable accommodation he furnished for teaching. A Teacher has been appointed, and his School is now open, for instructing the inhabitants.

XV. *Bracadale*, Isle of Skye. An affecting return, relating to this parish, was published by your Society last year. As the Minister of the parish is at present in bad health, a neighbouring Clergyman has been so obliging as to superintend the opening of the School, which must be ere this time, in active operation.

XVI. *Braes of Portrie*, in the Isle of Skye. In this district of the parish of Portrie, it is intended that a School shall commence in the course of December; which will make the fourth appointment in the Isle of Skye. To this Island, which is the most important and populous of all the Hebrides, and, excepting Lewes, the largest, your Committee have paid particular regard. It was in former times divided into twelve parishes; but these are now thrown into seven, containing a population of nearly twenty thousand. From three returns made to the Committee, it appears that among seven thousand eight hundred and ninety-four of this population, more than seven thousand are unable to read either Gaelic or English! One of your Schools has been placed in each of these three parishes.

XVII. *Muck or Monk*. This Island forms a part of the parish of Small-Isles. It contains a population of about one hundred and ninety souls. As most of the inhabitants may be collected, and there was no School in the island, a Teacher has been sent to them, who will open his School about the beginning of December.

XVIII. *Tiree*. This Island, lying to the west of Mull and Coll, contains a population of more than three thousand souls, who are in the most destitute state with respect to the means of education. A Teacher has been appointed, and he is on his way to Tiree, but has not yet reached the place of his destination.

XIX. *Crogan*, in the parish of Torosay, Isle of Mull. A Teacher has been engaged during last summer, one session of three months. Of seventy-four who profited by

his instructions, twenty-four are from 14 to 40, and fifty from 5 to 14 years of age. A considerable number of these could not read any, and at the end of the quarter they were engaged in various degrees of progress, from the Alphabet and First Book to the Gaelic Scriptures. "The children," says the Rev. Alexander Fraser of Torosay, "have made very considerable progress in reading Gaelic." Not a few of the books, furnished by your Society, have been purchased by the people at the reduced prices; and it is mentioned, to the credit of several parents, that in autumn, while the Teacher was absent, they had been careful to keep their children practising what they had learned. This winter the Teacher has the prospect of larger attendance, as a number of young persons who had been absent in the summer were now at home.

XX. *Jura*. In the most destitute part of this Island, in that quarter where the people are remote from the means of instruction in reading, and where they are, at the same time, widely separated from each other, your Committee have resolved that a School shall be opened in the beginning of the ensuing month. In case of the Teacher not having a sufficient number who can attend at one time, in addition to his labours in the School, he will teach in a circle from house to house.

The Committee having now given a brief statement of twenty Schools, which depend upon your bounty for their continuance, beg leave to conclude this part of their Report with an extract from the Rev. John Shaw of Diurnish, in Skye: "When I think of the spirit which first animated, and still animates the Society in their great exertions, for the good of my Countrymen, which spirit has

not been excited in vain—when I observe, as I do with pleasure, the desire which the people, where I am acquainted, so generally feel, to take advantage of the Society's bounty—especially when I consider the judicious plan adopted, so suitable to our wants and circumstances, and take into the account, the success which, to my knowledge, has already attended the Society's charitable efforts, I anticipate the most happy results, from perseverance in the good work so well begun. The good that the Society does is diffusive. The seed which they are honoured to sow here and there, when fostered as it ought, by the Ministers of religion, will not, I am persuaded, die away, but flourish, and increase, and multiply till it fill the land. The present seems to be the set time for the improvement of the Highlands; they seem, to my view, ripe for it; and I trust, by the benevolent exertions of the Society, combined with other means of instruction, ere long, all among us shall at least have an opportunity of “knowing the Lord, from the least to the greatest.”

In your former Report, the Committee stated, that they had “not been unmindful of the Gaelic population resident in Edinburgh; and had considered it necessary, that an attempt should be made to instruct them in their own language.” This Committee are gratified in being able to inform you, that, during the course of the last year, about fifty persons of both sexes have attended the Edinburgh Gaelic School; several of whom are considerably advanced in life, and the rest have arrived at the age of youth or manhood. Twelve of these are now able to read the Gaelic distinctly, with understanding to themselves, and ten read tolerably well; the rest are engaged with the First Book, or Psalm Book. A girl at this School, about ten years of age, has been in the habit of teaching her

mother and brother at home to read the Gaelic; and she was occasionally employed in giving a lesson to those who attended the School, in aid of the Schoolmaster. It may be proper to add, that two Gaelic Schools, of a similar description with the above, are maintained in Glasgow by the Society in that city.

Having thus completed the detail of their operations, your Committee have much pleasure in mentioning, that as soon as the melancholy facts contained in your last Report were made known, the generosity of the public was very generally excited, in favour of the great and interesting object before us. *

At Glasgow, on the 5th day of March last, at a most respectable Meeting of Gentlemen assembled, “ to consider the best means for instructing the inhabitants of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland in the Gaelic language,” a Society was formed in aid of your Institution. Upon being favoured with communications from these Gentlemen, your Committee instructed the Secretary to return their most sincere and cordial thanks, for the extraordinary exertions which they had made in aid of this Society. Since that period, this Committee have received a donation from the friends at Glasgow, of Two hundred pounds sterling, with an assurance, that the most liberal assistance will be afforded out of their funds, whenever the interests of your Society require it.

It affords the Committee additional pleasure to state, that, in the north of Scotland, especially within the bounds of the presbytery of Tain, a good degree of interest has been excited in favour of your Society; and parochial col-

* See Appendix, Part Third.

lections have already been remitted to the Treasurer, from the parishes of Fearn, Kincardine, Kilmuir-Easter, Tarbet, and Criech. Pecuniary assistance, to a considerable amount, has also been received from friends in London, Liverpool, and York ; from Argyllshire, Greenock, Stirling, Haddington, and other places; the particulars of which will appear in the List of Subscriptions and Donations.

To the generosity of the British and Foreign Bible Society, your Society has also been particularly indebted. Upon the motion of Robert Steven, Esq. the Committee of that inestimable Institution voted a donation of 500 Bibles and 500 Testaments in the Gaelic language, for the use of the Schools under your care. The unanimous and cordial thanks of the Committee were conveyed by your Secretary in return for this handsome present.

Your Committee, in conclusion, may be allowed to congratulate the Society on the degree of success, which has already accompanied its operations, as well as the prospects which are now opening before you, of extensive usefulness in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. No small degree of real satisfaction has been afforded to us, by the avidity and gratitude, with which the Inhabitants of these parts have received instruction in reading their native language; nor have we been less encouraged, by the many unequivocal testimonies of approbation, which have been received from various quarters of the United Kingdom.

APPENDIX.

PART FIRST.

RELATING TO THE STATE OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND.

Parochial Returns, &c.

No. I.

KILMALIE, INVERNESS-SHIRE.

*Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Donald M^cGillivray, to Mr A. Secretary,
dated Fort-William, 15th July 1812.*

YOUR letter of the 30th June came duly to hand; and as it deserves particular attention, from the information and prospects held forth in it, I shall answer it briefly, by a bearer from the Isle of Skye, who is here just now, on his way to Edinburgh, as a candidate for one of your Schools.

The population of this parish is from 4000 to 5000 souls. There are four Society Schoolmasters, (Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge,) one Parochial Schoolmaster, besides private Teachers in the Parish. Since January last, 143 Gaelic Old Testaments at 2s. 3d. each, and 220 Gaelic New Testaments at 1s. 4d. have been distributed in this place. Several persons who could not read, were induced to purchase them on account of the reduced price. For this supply of books, we are indebted to the benevolent operations of the Scottish Bible Society. Many of the rising generation are taught to read Gaelic in the Society's Schools; but, as these Schools are stationary, remote districts of the Parish have much need of Teachers. I shall mention two or three of the more needful places. Locharkaig-side, thinly inhabited, but *fifteen* or *twenty* miles from the nearest Teacher! Muirshialich, in Strathlochy, full of inhabitants, being on the banks of the Caledonian Canal, and *five* miles from a School. Blarmacfoiach, much peopled by poor tenants, *four* or *five* miles from Fort William. A Gaelic Teacher would be useful in any of these stations, particularly at Locharkaig-side. There are other districts in this extensive Parish, very remote from means of instruction, especially the head of Lochell.—Any thing in my power, for forwarding your views in instructing the long neglected people of Lochaber, shall not be wanting. I think it a happy preparation for your views, that they are supplied with so many Gaelic books. Wishing you much success in your Christian labour, I am, &c.

No. II.

DIURNISH, ISLE OF SKYE.

Extract from the Rev. John Shaw, to the same, dated 18th August 1812.

When I was in Edinburgh, the beginning of last month, it was truly gratifying to learn that your Society had begun its labours of love, with the prospect of success. May the Lord crown its charitable exertions, in behalf of the poor Highlanders, with his rich and effectual blessing! I was particularly pleased with the hope given me, that the Society would extend its benevolence to this destitute Isle of the sea, and that a School on its establishment, would be granted to this large Parish. This I, and I hope the people, would hail as a blessing; and I may venture to say, that few places in the Highlands are in more need. This Parish, by the returns in 1801, is the most populous in Skye: its population then amounted to 3325, and I am told there has been a small increase since that time. Of this vast number, by the best accounts I have got, only about *three hundred* can read English, and *fewer still* can receive religious instruction in that language; as it is not at all uncommon for a young person to read English with tolerable propriety, when he understands hardly one word of it. All the English readers I have mentioned, do not read Gaelic; and I have not known an instance of one reading Gaelic alone. We have had no elementary books in that language; therefore the common practice is to begin with the English. What follows from this short statement is, the deplorable consequence that *nine* parts out of *ten* of our whole population are unable to read any language, either English or Gaelic, and therefore can receive religious instruction only by the ear. As the Gaelic is the only language which the great bulk of the Parish understands, the object of the Society is just their most pressing want,—to be able to read the Scriptures in their native language, without which, it is obvious, that comparatively little good can be done them, by public teaching. The truth must be less understood, and take less hold on the mind, when brought forward only in an occasional discourse, than if it were familiar by daily study and consideration.

I hope the Society will come forward and cultivate this large field which is open before them. We have a Parochial School, indeed, and a small School on the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, second patent, where, besides girls being taught needle-work, a few young of both sexes are taught to read; and which, though newly established, promises, on its small scale, to do well: but what can these do in this extensive Parish? Four districts, of between four and five hundred inhabitants each, are without any School whatever, viz. Glendell, Hearlosh and Roag, Vaternish, and Coshladder. These, though separated from one another by hills and arms of the sea, are compact within themselves, and in either of them a School could be well attended. Though I would be most happy that all could be accommodated with Teachers, Hearlosh and Roag I would approve as the first station. There, about two hundred inhabitants are close on one another, and as many more within reach, in good weather. I spoke to the people, who will be glad of the School, and the Laird of MacLeod, the proprie-

tor, will take care that the necessary accommodation be given. The Teacher would need to bring a supply of the First Book and of the New Testament in Gaelic. Nothing can be done without this. I hope to hear from you soon on this subject; and I am, &c.

No. III.

SMALL ISLES, ARGYLL-SHIRE.

From the Rev. Neil MacLean, to the same, dated 7th September 1812.

I am just favoured with your letter of the 21st August. Having no regular conveyance, our communication with the Main Land and nearest Post-office is at times rather precarious. Should my answer not reach you as soon as you might have expected, you may assign what I now mention as the cause.

I am sincerely happy that this Parish has engaged the attention of your Society; and most cheerfully shall I contribute any thing in my power towards the promotion of the pious and benevolent object they have in view.

That you may the more readily perceive the inconveniences and difficulties, arising from its local situation, with which the conveying of instruction is attended in this quarter, and the expediency of obviating them, as far as may be done, permit me to call your attention to the following short statement.

The Parish of Small Isles, containing a population of upwards of fifteen hundred, comprehends four islands, viz. Eigg, Islemuck, Rum, and Canna, separated by boisterous seas, the navigation of which is difficult and dangerous. In winter and spring, it is often totally impracticable to cross from one to the other. During a tract of severe weather in these months, I have been unable for five, six, or even seven weeks, to get to the remotest of these islands, and even then, perhaps, at the risk of my life.

In this island, (*Eigg*.) where the Parish Church is situated, there has been a Parochial School established for a considerable time: no Gaelic, however, is taught, the Schoolmaster being a young man from Aberdeenshire. According to the last enumeration, its population amounts to 442, one half of which at least are Roman Catholics.

Rum is a large mountainous island, containing, I think, about twenty-one thousand acres. Over this surface is dispersed a population of 445. There is a Society Schoolmaster appointed among them; but owing to the extent, the extreme ruggedness, and detached nature of the country, much general benefit cannot be expected to result from his labours.

There was a Society School likewise established in *Islemuck* not long since, but for particular reasons the Teacher was removed, a few years ago, and the School discontinued.

Canna I certainly consider as most destitute of the means of instruction. It is the remotest of the Small Isles, being, I suppose, 24 or 25 miles by sea from hence; and I do not know that there was ever any such thing as a Public School of any description erected there. As to book knowledge, they must of course be in a deplorable state. Here a difficulty of ano-

their kind occurs;—all the inhabitants (392), with the exception of seven or eight families, profess the Roman Catholic religion. Among a people whose minds are in general strongly biased by religious prejudices, and who are remarkably tenacious of their own opinions, I have considerable doubts whether the introduction of any person of a different persuasion as a Teacher would be encouraged or countenanced, even if he should profess to teach nothing but the reading of the Scriptures “without note or comment.”—It might, however, be thought worth a trial. In the other islands I have mentioned, a considerable number may be found capable of reading English and Gaelic, though with the bulk of the people the case is otherwise.

If it were consistent with the plan of your Teachers to remove occasionally from one farm to another, I am of opinion that in Rùm most good might be done; but by having the School stationary, I presume, for the reasons formerly mentioned, that not above 40 or 50 could conveniently be assembled in one place. In the remaining islands, particularly Islemuck and Canna, which are the smallest, I take it the greatest part of the population might be collected. When the Teacher intended for this station comes forward, I shall probably see him here, and shall be happy to grant him every facility in my power. In the mean time I shall endeavour to impress the minds of the people with a sense of the advantages they may derive from this institution. I remain, &c.

N. B. The Parish of Small Isles was vacant when the inquiry was set on foot respecting the state of the Highlands.—I have been rather particular, as no report had been sent from this Parish.

From M^r Donald's Account of the Hebrides, presented to the Board of Agriculture.—“The clergyman of the parish of Small Isles, (that is, Eigg, Rùm, Muck, and Canna, comprehending a solid landed estate of more than 30,000 acres,) has his manse and residence in Eigg. He must preach and discharge other sacred duties in all the other Islands, at all seasons of the year. His voyage to Canna, for the purpose of preaching a sermon there, is 24 miles going and 24 miles returning, supposing the wind to be as favourable as possible; but at an average may be fairly calculated at 30 miles both ways, or 60 miles in all, around the terrific and boisterous island of Rùm, where there is not a single harbour, in case of bad weather, which a boat dare enter, excepting the dangerous and exposed one of Loch Scrissoirt. The expence of the voyage cannot fairly be calculated at less than two guineas, exclusive of wear and tear of boat, rigging, clothes, &c.”

No. IV.

PORTRIE, ISLE OF SKYE.

Extract from the Rev. Coll Macdonald, to the same, dated Manse of Portrie, 9th October 1812.

I take the liberty to remind you, for the information of the Society, that the late Mr Alexander Campbell, my predecessor in office in this Parish, returned answers to the queries proposed by your Society. From the representations which he made of the local situation of the parishioners, the Society

will easily perceive the very great disadvantages under which they labour for making progress in religious knowledge.

N. B.—This letter never came to hand; see, however, Part Second of this Appendix, No. XVI.

No. V.

KILCHRENAN, ARGYLL-SHIRE.

Extract from the Rev. William Fraser of Kilchrenan, to the Gaelic Secretary, dated 27th October 1812.

I have read with great interest, the first Annual Report of your Society for Gaelic Schools; and I am happy to find, that the success which has already attended your pious exertions, promises to become permanent and extensive.

The picture of Highland Parishes, so faithfully drawn by your correspondents in the North, I have had occasion often to contemplate with emotions of pity and regret, despairing of ever seeing a general scheme adopted for removing the many obstacles to religious instruction, which exist in so extended and scattered a population. It is the lot, and I hope will be the honour of your Society, to have chosen a plan for this pious purpose, which is at once simple in its operation, and, I think, adequate to the accomplishment of the object in view.

The representation contained in your Report, applies, in the most material circumstances, to the whole of that district of the Highlands with which I am best acquainted: I mean, the west coast, extending from Applecross in Ross-shire, to the south end of Kintyre in Argyllshire, including some of the largest, and several of the smaller adjacent islands. In different parts of that extensive district, I have had occasion, for years, to officiate as a Teacher of youth, Missionary Minister, and Established Clergyman; and I have reason to believe, that the majority of the inhabitants of all ranks, will cordially co-operate with so benevolent and patriotic an institution as yours, when its object is once fairly and accurately stated to them; which can most effectually be done by as extensive a circulation of your Report as possible.

At one period it was thought that *Highlanders* could not be civilized without abolishing their *language* as well as their *dress*. Experience has shown the erroneusness of that opinion, and the impossibility of reducing it to practice.—

The united Parishes of Kilchrenan and Dalavich, contain about 1100 souls, and is the only parochial charge in the Synod of Argyll, that does not border, in any one point, upon the sea; which, together with the want of roads and bridges, occasions many inconveniences. The fresh water lake, called Lochaw, extends through it. The two churches are distant about eight miles. There are three Schools; two stationary on one side of the lake, and one ambulatory on the other side. Gaelic is read, and English occasionally translated into Gaelic in each of the Schools. There are, besides, some boys employed to teach in farms at a distance from the Schools,

The number of children taught in all, may amount, in the winter time, nearly to 200, of which 100 are taught at Kilchrenan. In summer, the greater part of that number is employed in herding cattle.

The Society School, which for years had been stationed at Kilchrenan, and of very great benefit to the Parish, was withdrawn some time since, because the accommodations required by the Society had never been granted by the Heritors. Providence, however, has opened another source for the poor, from a quarter least expected. Dr R. MacI. a native of this Parish, last year remitted from India a *hundred pounds*, as a fund for instructing poor children, and training them up to be useful in life: and on this fund there are now nine children attending the School. While the education of the poor has been thus attended to by *one* of the natives, the support of the poor has been provided for by the benevolence of *others*. Many years ago, Dr G. MacC. bequeathed £27 : 15 : 6 for the poor of Kilchrenan : J. MacI. bequeathed £11 : 2 : 2 for the same purpose in Dalavich : D. MacI. the father of Dr R. has given a donation of £20 for the poor, in his own name, and in the name of his other son deceased, the late Rev. Mr P. MacI. : and Capt. S. another native of this Parish, late of the East India Company's service, bequeathed £100 for the same benevolent purpose. All which is now laid out upon interest, and faithfully applied for the relief of the poor, according to the intention of the donors. Hence may be seen the advantages that result from an early and pious education. It operates at home and abroad, for the benefit of society. In the far remote regions of India, the above two young men, (who had the first rudiments of their education at a country School,) have been mindful of the channel through which they had arrived at an independent fortune, and wished as much as possible to widen that channel, in order to capacitate others for being equally useful to themselves, and to their native country.

In this Parish we some time ago obtained from the British and Foreign Bible Society a supply of the Scriptures in Gaelic, at reduced prices, which the people read *with pleasure, because they understood them*.

From what has been stated, it will appear, that although, in common with the rest of the Highlands, this Parish labours under many inconveniences as to local situation, they yet enjoy advantages of which other districts are deprived; and therefore, while they wish, if in their power, to promote the object of your Society, they do not wish to ask any share of what others stand more in need of. But were it convenient to send them a few copies of your elementary Gaelic books, they will be thankfully received and paid for.—I have the honour to be, &c. (*One hundred copies were sent.*)

No. VI.

Extract from the Rev. Daniel Dewar, Strontian, dated 21st September 1812.

I have received your letter, and would have answered it sooner had I been at home. I have made, in the company of some English friends, an extensive tour through most of the Hebrides, as well as through Arisaig, Moidart, North and South Morer, Knodart, &c. ; and am now most deeply convinced of the utility and necessity of your Society. I made it my business

to make inquiries as to the abilities of the people to read, and have seldom met with any one of the common people, in the districts I have mentioned, capable of reading either English or Gaelic. There is no school in Canna, containing upwards of four hundred souls; no School in the extensive district of Moidart.—The moral and religious state of these people must be truly pitiable, since between the Parish Church of Ardnamurchan and that of Glenelg there is but one Missionary. Pray, unfold the map, and look at the immense regions which intervene. I mention this with no other view than to excite the pity of your Society towards the moral condition of a people who are labouring under the greatest disadvantages. It is in vain that the benevolence of Christians gives them the Bible in their own language, unless you extend to them the power of reading it.—

P. S. I had almost forgot to mention the case of a most deserving School-master in the island of Col. He belongs to the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. He teaches his scholars to read Gaelic, on the Lancasterian plan, with more success than any other Teacher I have seen in the Highlands. The poor man, whose very soul is in the business, is greatly at a loss for Gaelic Bibles. If you could give him a donation in Gaelic Spelling-books and Bibles, you would very materially promote the object of your Institution.

No. VII.

The Committee, being still anxious to procure further information, with respect to the Highlands and Islands, here insert the Circular Letter which was originally issued. They earnestly invite the Ministers of those Parishes who have not made Returns, to send their replies directed to any of the Secretaries; and besides request the attention of all Gentlemen who are able to furnish them with authentic details, in regard to any parts not mentioned in this, nor in the preceding Report.

SIR,

Edinburgh, 27th December 1810.

The late publication of the Bible, in Gaelic, in a portable form, and at a very moderate price, and which those who cannot afford to purchase, may procure for nothing, has led many to inquire, if the natives of the Highlands and Islands are very generally capable of making use of it.

They know, that, by law, Parochial Schools are, or should be established in every Parish; and they are well acquainted with the long and beneficial services of the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge in the Highlands and Islands, with whose useful undertakings they have no wish to interfere. At the same time, information, as particular and satisfactory as some desire, relating to the state of the Highlands, has not hitherto been obtained. A numerous and respectable meeting of inhabitants of Edinburgh, was held here on the 19th instant, to consider this subject. Every one present seemed desirous of combining their efforts towards enabling the whole inhabitants of the Highlands and Islands to read the Scriptures in the language they understand; but it appeared desirable, before attempting this, to acquire as perfect a knowledge, as possible, of their present attainments.

After considerable deliberation, it was unanimously agreed, to appoint a Committee of twenty-four, who should set on foot an inquiry respecting the following points :

1st, *What proportion of the inhabitants of every Highland Parish can read the English language, and are capable of receiving religious instruction in that language ?* 2dly, *What numbers understand, and are capable of reading Gaelic alone ?* 3dly, *What numbers are unable to read either English or Gaelic ?*

We take the liberty of transmitting these queries to you, Sir, and we entreat you to favour us with explicit and particular replies to each, and to subjoin such remarks as you may judge of importance on the subject.

✂ In order to have an adequate conception of the deplorable state of many parts of the Highlands and Islands, with regard to the means of education, as well as to show the urgent necessity for establishing, at their various stations, the Circulating Schools mentioned in *Part Second*, reference must be made to the Appendix for last year, where an Official Return will be found, with regard to each Parish, of which particular mention is not made in this Appendix or preceding Report.

PART SECOND.

THE OPERATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Highlands.

No. I.

Badantarbét School.

PARISH OF LOCHBROOM, ROSS-SHIRE.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Dr Thomas Ross, dated 23th May 1812.

"I deferred acknowledging your kind and interesting communications for several weeks past, until I should have it in my power to send you a report of the progress of your School in this Parish, since its commencement in November last. This I expected to have done in the beginning of April; but the weather, in this country, was so excessively stormy from the first days of March, that I was unable to visit that part of the Parish, till the 17th of this month. That day I preached at BadsCALLY, within about six miles of Badantarbét, having lodged in an island by the way the night before; I intimated my intention of visiting the School on the morrow at Achillibuic, about half way to Badantarbét.

On Monday the 18th of May 1812, the Master and Scholars of the School of the Gaelic Society, at Badantarbét, met by appointment at Achillibuic, with many of the parents, and several of the more respectable inhabitants in the neighbourhood; when, after prayer, I proceeded to examine the scholars, according to their various classes. There were thirty-five young persons present; some of whom had entered at the commencement, and continued during the whole of the session; some were prevented from a regular attendance, by distance, and the badness of the weather; and others were prevented from entering till some part of the session was over. The proficiency, of course, was various, but, upon the whole, highly gratifying. Owing to causes, partly arising from local situation, and altogether unavoidable, the supply of First Books and Psalm-books, which were forwarded by the Society, did not (except 40 First Books) arrive at their destination, till the Session was far advanced; and there were no Bibles or New Testaments sent. On calling up the scholars of one class, I heard them read, with great correctness, a passage of the book of Proverbs from their First Books; I next examined them upon the Psalm-book, in which they acquitted themselves equally to my satisfaction. There being no Bible in the School, I asked the man of the house in which we met to bring me one. He did so; and to my no small surprise, on putting it into the hands of my scholars, they seemed quite at home, and read it, *ad aperturum*, with as much ease as they did any passage in their First Book. The class consisted of boys, from 8 to 12 years old. I sent them back to their seats with much com-

mendation, thinking, however, that this was the brag of the School. I was very agreeably deceived; for, on calling the next class, consisting of girls rather more advanced in years, I found them at least as well prepared. In short, the whole acquitted themselves so well, that I have very seldom, in all my life, experienced more real satisfaction, than I did during the few hours that I spent amongst them. It is truly gratifying to think, that in the short space of five months, so great a change should happen in so extensive a district of country, as that which has happened in the Aird of Coigach since November last:—a change by which the Scriptures of truth are now accessible from day to day in so many families and villages, which before that time were involved in comparative ignorance and darkness. I have every reason to think that the number of scholars will be much greater, provided the Society shall be pleased to continue their School in the same place for another Session; which I beg leave earnestly to intreat that they will do."

From the same, dated 24th August 1812.—"Your School at Badantarbet is doing well under Mr Munro; and the people, having once got a taste for learning, are not satisfied with their children being able merely to read Gaelic,—a number of them pay the Teacher for instructing them also in reading English, and writing, at extra hours. Thus he has his hands quite full; and I hope to be able soon to send you a very favourable report of their progress."

N. B. Already the opinions of the first Committee of this Institution are beginning to receive confirmation. "We are satisfied," said they, "that the reading of the Gaelic will implant the desire of knowledge,* as well as improve the understanding; and thus you insure both the extension and the use of the *English* language." The Public will observe, however, that the Society are at no expence with these extra hours: it being considered as an invariable duty to keep to the object of the Institution. "From the nature of this plan," say the Committee already referred to, "you are indeed confined to the teaching of Gaelic; but when the urgency of the present case, and the immense multitude of those who should receive instruction, is duly considered, it will be evident, that no extensive benefit can be expected, were you to extend your views, or grasp at more." But if it is desirable that a community should be at the expence of its own instruction, and if the above disposition be the effect of teaching the Highlanders to read their own ancient language, which it certainly is, then the propriety and value of the Society's defined object, is more than ever apparent.

No. II.

Keppoch School.

PARISH OF LOCHBROOM, ROSS-SHIRE.

Extract from the Rev. Dr Ross, 24th August 1812.—There is one other district of this Parish, for which I must beg leave at present to solicit the bounty of your beneficent Institution. It is the district of the Little Strath, probably mentioned before by the name of Keppoch, the principal hamlet. It is a populous Strath, far removed from every public advantage of this kind; and what renders it peculiarly interesting at present is, that there is a very

pious and excellent woman residing there, who is very much calculated for usefulness on your scheme. Her name is Margaret Sinclair; she is the daughter of an excellent man, now deceased, who was many years ago Society Schoolmaster there, and the widow of another very worthy man who was examined in Edinburgh, and sustained as a qualified Catechist in Little Strath four years ago; but died soon after, and was not employed. His widow, since her husband's death, has not ceased to teach all the neighbouring children who came to her gratuitously; and were she to be employed by your Society, I am convinced that she would have a well-attended and prosperous School. May I beg to call your attention particularly to this subject.

From the same, dated 9th November 1812.—Yesterday week, I preached near Keppoch, and after sermon introduced the subject of the School, which I recommended as strongly as I could, and appointed the next day for the purpose of taking down the names of intending Scholars, and commencing business. Accordingly, on Monday I went to the place, and I had the comfort to take down a goodly number, say seventy-seven,—among whom were the fathers and mothers, with their children. Many more were present, and would have subscribed; but the distances at which they lived were so great, and the roads so dreadful, that it was thought advisable to dissuade them, particularly during the winter Session. Indeed there is a sufficient number for any one Teacher on the common plan. M. S. thinks that she has quite enough to do; and implores the prayers of the people of God in her behalf. I hope that she will do well.—May the Lord himself accompany your labours with an eminent blessing!

No. III.

Monkcastle School.

PARISH OF LOCHBROOM, ROSS-SHIRE.

Extract from the Rev. Dr Ross, 24th August 1812.—I read your communication of the 6th June with interest and pleasure. I rejoice to find that the affairs of the Society are in so prosperous a train, and that some other districts of this extensive Parish are likely to derive benefit from your benevolent exertions.—In consequence of what you said in your last letter, I have been preparing the people of Monkcastle for a Teacher, who, I trust, will be sent to them against the 1st of November.

From the same, dated the 9th November 1812.—Since I had the pleasure of your last letter, I sent — word to send his son immediately to Monkcastle, where I have no doubt that he is at this moment at the head of a pretty numerous School. I intend to preach in that neighbourhood next Lord's day, and shall be able to report to you the state of things there.

No. IV.

Melivaig School.

PARISH OF GAIRLOCH, ROSS-SHIRE.

Extract from the Rev. James Russel, dated 10th October 1812.—As N. N. goes to Inverness to meet with you, I cannot let slip so good an opportunity of writing. About six weeks ago I went to Melivaig to examine the Gaelic

School there, and was highly gratified, in seeing upwards of seventy scholars, of different ages, applying themselves to their books, few of whom ever had a book in their hands before N. Nicolson's appearing among them. My pleasure was of no ordinary kind, upon hearing several of them read the Scriptures readily, seeing others far advanced, and all of them making progress. From this specimen, and from the concurring testimony of the people of Melivaig, I have every reason to think, that the Teacher's diligence and attention to the duties of his office, has been unwearied and unremitting; and had the books come along with himself, I am persuaded the scholars, by this time, might have been safely left to their own exertions, in the further prosecution of their studies.—You will judge whether it will be most proper to continue him another session in Melivaig, or remove him to another station in this Parish. I am rather at a loss how to advise. On the one hand, there is much to do in this Parish, and therefore his stay, in any one station, would require to be short; and on the other hand, as the scholars farthest advanced, and most capable of teaching others, are but children, who cannot be expected to have the perseverance of persons farther advanced in life, nor to be influenced by those religious motives, which are the surest pledge of active exertions in a good cause, I am not without my fears that the School may fall off if the Teacher is presently withdrawn. But by attentively considering N. N.'s report, and the circumstances of this Parish, you will be enabled to judge whether he ought to be removed at this time, or continued another session in Melivaig. Meantime, as the harvest is truly great and the labourers few, let us hope and pray that the Lord of the harvest would send forth labourers into his harvest.

Extract from the Teacher, dated 14th November 1812.—I began the School immediately after I came home; and the people were never so thankful as they were, when I told them that I was to remain with them other five months. I shall have a throng School all this winter session: all the children attend, and the grown-up people also. There is one woman about fifty years of age begun at this time; she was afraid before that she could not learn. The people of Sand (another district) were not pleased because I did not come to them,

No. V.

Scatwell School.

PARISH OF CONTIN, ROSS-SHIRE.

Extract from the Rev. James Dallas, dated Contin, 7th September 1812.—Your agreeable letter of the 21st ult. afforded me much pleasure. The Teachers from your Institution will be cheerfully welcomed to this Parish, by minister and people, for we have more than need of such.

Out of the different districts of this wide Parish, which stand much in need of teaching, I select two as being most needful, viz. Scatwell with the parts around it, and Strathbrane. And what may appear a paradox to you at first, that which is nearest the Church and Parish School is every whit as needful as that which is rather more than three times the distance from

it. Scatwell may be reckoned five miles, or some more, from this; but it is separated from us by a very large and rapid river, the Conan at Scatwell, also by the river Rasay at this place. Even the grown-up people at Scatwell seldom attend the church at Contin. Many of them, from their forefathers, are inclined to Episcopacy, and in this respect also they are very ill off, as the Episcopal Clergyman is at a very great distance from them. They are therefore lamentably ignorant, but they are most willing to receive a Teacher. They never had a School there, so far as I know; and there are many people in the place, young and old.

Now Strathbrane is full 16 or 17 miles from this place, most of it rough and rugged ground. There are about 25 families there. They never had a School. They have a sermon only once a month, from a Missionary on the Royal Bouptry, when the weather and other things permit his going there. Need I say any thing more to shew that their case is claimant?

There would be good employment for three other Teachers in the Parish of Contin, but I shall ask no more than two at present, which I hope your Committee will have the goodness to send. And whilst we bless God, who is the author of all good, we will bless you also, as the instruments in his hand, of doing us good. To communicate the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make men wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus, is surely a matter of the utmost importance to such as are ignorant of it. It is so far tending to make "the desert blossom as the rose," and to make men who sit in darkness "to see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God."

I shall only add, that it will be very requisite for the Teachers to bring books with them fit for beginners to learn; and wherein I can serve you or them, you may freely command, Dear Sir, &c.

From the Teacher, dated Scatwell, 17th November 1812.—I take this opportunity of writing you these few lines, as I was desired by you, concerning the people attending the Gaelic School in this place. I came here on Monday the 2d of this month. The inhabitants of the place received me very kindly, and that same day there came to the School about fourteen children; since that, there are about twenty-four attending every day, and that between five and twenty-five years of age. They could not attend, owing to their corn not being gathered in; but now I understand that there will be a good many, both old and young, attending this School. As for those that have come, they did not know a letter of the alphabet, but there are some of them now, can spell words of one and of two syllables:—and I hope they will be a pleasure to the Society, to me, and to themselves soon.

From the Rev. James Dallas, dated Contin, 18th November 1812.—I duly received your favour of the 20th ult. from Inverness, and without loss of time communicated the same to the people of Scatwell, who expressed their thankfulness to the Society, and their readiness to receive the Teacher. I accompanied James Monro on the 2d ult. to Scatwell, where the people heartily received him, and gave the necessary accommodation. A considerable number of Scholars entered immediately, and more soon followed. I sent my own servant to Dingwall for the books, and sent him again with

some of them to the School at Scatwell. I, in the name of the people, most heartily thank your benevolent Society for them. They shall be distributed in the most impartial manner I can. I shall try to sell some of them at reduced prices, for the benefit of the Society; the poor *only* shall get them gratis.

The School would be much more numerously attended had the corn been taken in, but owing to the uncommon wetness of the season, part of it yet remains in the fields; but I hope that it will all be got in soon. Since the year 1782, which was remarkable all over Britain, the harvest-work was not so far back in this country. In a few weeks hence, I hope to be able to give a still more satisfactory account of the progress of the School. This has been an uncommonly severe year in this part of the country, where by far the greater part of the people were obliged to buy their meal at so high a price, and for so long a time, from the deficiency of last crop; yet I shall try what can be done in way of contribution for some of the Bible Societies. I sent our moiety last year to the Edinburgh Bible Society. It was sent privately through the hands of a respectable gentleman, who I am sure has delivered it.

But I shall not trespass any further upon your patience just now, than to say, that I am, with sentiments of gratitude and esteem, the Committee's and your obedient humble servant.—

“He that watereth shall be watered also himself.” We sincerely pray to the God of all grace, that he may repay your labours of love to us seven-fold into your own bosoms.

No. VI.

Calnukile School.

PARISH OF APPLECROSS, ROSS-SHIRE.

Extract from the Rev. John M'Queen, dated Applecross, 20th October 1812. I chanced to be from home, for some time after the receipt of your letter of the 21st August. And having since had application made to me, from different parts of the Parish, for a Gaelic School; as from the necessity of their local situation, their claim was nearly equal, I determined to give the preference to those who would engage to give most countenance and assistance to the Teacher. On this ground, I recommend Calnukile, a populous tenant farm, in the near neighbourhood of two other tenant farms, distant from the Parish Church and Parochial School about four miles of rugged mossy road. From thirty to forty persons may occasionally attend, and possibly more. There are several other detached farms in the Parish, in similar situations; and if the Committee could, in consistency with their plan, make the School stationary in the Parish, though *ambulatory* as to its local situation, the inhabitants of the Parish would by this means be all gradually taught to read the Scriptures in their own language.

I rejoice at the success of your Institution. And that the benevolent object of your Society may operate to the happiness of many successive generations, is the sincere prayer of, Sir, &c.

No. VII.

Jeantown School.

PARISH OF LOCHCARRON, ROSS-SHIRE.

Letter from the Rev. Lachlan Mackenzie, dated Loch-Carron, 29th August 1812.—I received your letter, containing good news for the poor of this Parish. I went next day to the new village called Jeantown. The people seemed to be happy. Several married men and women told me that they would become Scholars. The fishing has commenced, and the harvest soon will begin. The School, I suspect, cannot begin till November. I always am, my dear Sir, yours affectionately.

Extract from the Teacher, dated Jeantown, 13th November 1812.—I am going to inform you about this School, according to what you required of me; and I hope it will be glad tidings to you and to every one of the people of God. I have to report, that the old men and women are learning the alphabet in four days, so that they are fit to begin to spell. Already I have seventy-two scholars; twenty-one of them between 23 and 50 years of age, and sixteen of them between 23 and 20; the other part under that. Because I have not had a house that will keep them at once, I divide them into three parts; the old women and some of the girls attending in the morning from eight to half past nine; boys and girls from half past ten to four; and then the lads and old men from half past five to nine at night. The house at night has been so thronged, that I could not well move a step between them. I am engaged from eight in the morning to nine at night; but I am not complaining of that, because I have had a pleasure in being so.

No. VIII.

Muirshialich School.

PARISH OF KILMALIE, INVERNESS-SHIRE.

Extract from the Rev. Donald McGillivray, dated Fort-William, 11th September 1812.—I am happy that your Society have agreed to send a Teacher of Gaelic to this Parish. I communicated this resolution to the people of Muirshialich, and as many of them as I spoke to rejoiced greatly to hear that they were to get a Gaelic Teacher. They told me, also, that the plan was equally acceptable to their neighbours. As I am rather a stranger in the Parish, (being only two years in the country, and prevented from going about among the people, owing to my having the charge of the Parochial School at Fort-William,) I omitted in my last to tell you that there is another village called Barr, consisting of 15 or 16 families, about two miles beyond Muirshialich. One of the inhabitants of Barr, to whom I spoke, told me that he himself would give a house *gratis* for accommodating the School. Upon more minute inquiry, I think that a middle station between Muirshialich and Barr may be chosen; and I have not the least doubt but by the middle of October, when the people will have their little crop secured, but what there will be 60 scholars ready to attend. I have also every reason to believe, that before a Gaelic Teacher will be long stationed in one

part of the Parish, applications will be made to get him removed to other parts, where his services shall be wanting. I am of opinion, that between Muirshiallich and Barr is the best place to begin; and if, afterwards, any number of Scholars can be secured in the remote districts of Locharkaig, the Teacher can be sent there also. If my influence shall be wanting to secure Scholars, you may depend upon it, that it shall be exerted; but I believe that the people themselves are sensible of the utility of such an Institution, and that they will greedily grasp the opportunity.

You can direct your Teacher to call upon me, and I shall introduce him to the people, and do any other thing in my power to render him comfortable and useful in the place. With sentiments of gratitude to your Society for their kind offer, I am, dear Sir, yours truly.

No. IX.

Moydart School.

ARDNAMURCHAN, INVERNESS-SHIRE.

This School is placed in one of the districts of the extensive parish of Ardnamurchan, which lies partly in Inverness and partly in Argyll-shire. Moydart, which is north of Ardnamurchan Proper, is in Inverness-shire. No letter has yet been received from this Station, as it is only a recent appointment.

No. X.

Kilmorie School.

ARDNAMURCHAN, ARGYLL-SHIRE.

Extract from the Rev. Daniel Dewar, Strontian, dated 11th July 1812.—
Your letter has not reached me in course, otherwise you would have received an earlier answer.

I beg you will command my services in any way in which you think I may be useful in forwarding the important designs of your Institution. Though a Teacher may not be permanently necessary from your Society in Ardnamurchan and Sunart, I cannot help thinking that he might, during one half-year, be the means of doing great good. For though in the immediate neighbourhood of Strontian, most of the young people can read Gaelic, this is generally not the case, so far as my observation goes, in any other part of the district. Besides, the very novelty of the plan of your excellent Institution, would in its immediate and practical effect, awaken the attention of the people to the reading of the word which is able to make them wise unto salvation. I have said that a Teacher from you may not be necessary here above half a year, because a Schoolmaster from the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge is to be appointed somewhere in the interior, I mean between Strontian and the Parish School, the distance of which is about thirty miles. These *thirty miles* are at present, and have always been, without any settled Schoolmaster. It will afford me personally much pleasure, if

you can send a Teacher here, since I hope he will be the instrument of doing much good.

From the same, dated 21st September 1812.—With regard to Ardnamurchan, Sir James Riddell's factor and myself agree in thinking that *Kilmorie* is the most eligible situation for a School. This place will be pointed out to the Teacher when he comes. We shall be glad to receive him as soon as you can send him.

N. B.—*Kilmorie*, where this School has been opened, is situated in Ardnamurchan Proper, which is the most westerly point of the British Continent, and is understood to form the line between the North and South Hebrides.

Islands.

No. XI.

Bayble School.

STORNOWAY, ISLE OF LEWES.

Extract from the Teacher, dated 25th December 1811.—I am sorry that there is none of the books come forward as yet;—and now I am doing nothing but reading the Scriptures to the people: they are very willing to gather to hear the word. And now, suppose the books were here, they would not serve the half of the people, for I believe that both old and young are going to make a trial. They have got a very large School-house made since I came here (in fifteen days). Indeed I cannot say that I am idle, for the people gather every day in the week to hear the word of God.—I believe that I had above three hundred of them last Sabbath.

From the same, dated 26th February 1812.—I take the freedom to write you once more, to let you know of my situation. I am happy to inform you, that I am busy with a number of Scholars. The number that attend in the day amounts to 40, and 20 in the night-time; sixty in all. Before I got the books, I bought some paper, and began to print two or three letters together in the Gaelic language, which was a great help to me. They are so anxious to learn, that they would sit up day and night if their work would allow them. The house they made is large, on account of their gathering on the Lord's day; the length of it is 36 feet, and after all, it will not contain above two-thirds of the people that gather to it. The rest of them will be lying on the roof of the house, all the time of the reading.

From the same, dated 27th July 1812. I have still the same number of Scholars. Two of those that joined first, departed this life, some time ago, but I got other two in their room. They are all coming on very well, but some of them better than others. I have one boy reading in *Genesis*, four in the New Testament, eighteen reading the *Psalm-book*, and a number of them to begin the *Psalm-book* in a short time. I have six that had been at an English School, but could not understand a single sentence of what they

read; three of these are before the whole of them; but a good number that did not know the letters when I came here, are before the other three.—There was a Lady speaking to me, three weeks ago, telling me how strange it was to her, to see so many Psalm-books in church, the Sabbath before, when formerly there was none to be seen, excepting the Minister's, and her own, and other two. The Minister himself was saying, that he was well pleased to see so many. Sir, I have the honour to be your humble servant, &c.

Letter from the Rev. Colin Mackenzie, dated Manse of Stornoway, 5th May 1812.—I saw myself long ago bound in duty to express my warmest acknowledgments to your worthy Society, for their distinguished favour to me and my people, in marking us out amongst the first objects of their benevolence; but I deferred discharging this duty, until I could say something gratifying respecting an appearance of success to their School here. This inestimable blessing was received with avidity; and from the unceasing zeal and diligence of the Master, and the number of the Scholars, I have the happiness to think that in due time it will do well. Please have the goodness to signify to the Committee, that I and the people bear the liveliest and most grateful impressions of their goodness, and see ourselves deeply indebted to their bounty to our latest breath. In the mean time, we are importunate in our addresses to Heaven for its choicest and best blessings to them, and for success to their praise-worthy undertaking, being all the return which circumstances at present will permit us to make. In process of time, I hope, from the powerful constraints of love and gratitude, we shall be induced to cast our mite into the treasury of their generosity, and the supply of their funds.—I suppose that you have before now been informed, that Angus MacLeod did not come here until about the 12th of December, and that the first supply of books did not arrive until the month of February, which retarded the progress of the School; however, when I lately examined the Scholars, to the number of about fifty, young and old persons of both sexes, I was delighted to find that their progress had far exceeded my most sanguine expectations; some spelling, some reading many of the Psalms in their own native language, who a few months before then did not know a letter. What a blessed change will this in time produce, in advancing the great Mediator's kingdom, and making sure the final salvation of those given him by the Father! I anticipate good effects: May they be verified to the poor of the flock, that the praise may redound to the glory of God, and the honour of his exalted name! With my best wishes for prosperity to the members of your Society, and to you as their Secretary, I am, Sir, your's sincerely.

No. XII.

— School.

ISLAND OF NORTH UIST.

Extract from the Rev. James Macqueen, dated North Uist, 1st May 1812.—The letter you did me the favour of writing me on the 10th of March, came duly to hand; but some family misfortunes prevented my acknow-

ledging its receipt sooner. I was highly gratified on learning by your letter, that your Society had paid attention to the state of this populous and extensive Parish, and intends sending a Gaelic Instructor among us. I communicated to the Parishioners the Society's views, with which they were highly delighted, and long much for the appearance of an Instructor. All the people will be at their sheallings till the 12th of August; from that date till the middle of April is the fittest time for a session with us. With best wishes for the success of the Society's endeavours, I am, &c.

N. B. By a letter from Skye, dated the 9th of November, the Secretary was informed, that the Teacher appointed by the Committee for the station in North Uist, was to sail from thence by the packet next day.

No. XIII.

Clachan School.

KILMUIR, ISLE OF SKYE.

Extract from the Teacher, dated Clachan, East Side, 15th September 1812.—This School began on the day appointed by the Society, and I thought a certain farm, named Clachan, in the middle of East Side, where I found the inhabitants more numerous, and most desirous of being taught, the best place to begin. The first week that I began, I had only twenty-four Scholars, but they have increased every week since, and the number now is one hundred and four. Mr Ross (Minister of the Parish) came home about five weeks ago. I went to see him, and told him that the inhabitants of East Side were willing to build a School-house, if they had his directions where it was most proper to be built, and he consented that it should be built when the School had begun. The house, which is 44 feet long, has been built about three weeks since.—I do not grudge my time nor labour, day nor night, in teaching any person or persons who are in the least desirous of reading, and it is my earnest desire that they should, both old and young, learn to read the word of God.

No. XIV.

Hearlosh and Roag School.

DIURNISH, ISLE OF SKYE.

Extract from the Rev. John Shaw, dated Bay of Dunvegan, 9th November 1812.—I was favoured with your's from Inverness this day se'nnight. The books and parcels came safe, so far as I know without opening them.—I have not yet seen the Teacher for this Parish, nor for Bracadale, but I am told they will be here in these days; which will be as soon as they could properly commence their labours, for the harvest is yet hardly concluded. The School in this Parish can begin immediately. See also this Appendix, Part First, No. II.

No. XV.

——— *School.*

BRACADALE, ISLE OF SKYE.

Extract from the preceding Letter.—I have advertised a meeting with the people in Bracadale this week, where the station and accommodation for the Schoolmaster can be settled. Thus all the Schools for this neighbourhood will, I trust, be established, and in a train for important good in a very short time.—I shall be happy to hear from you any thing relating to the progress and prospects of the Society that you may think fit to communicate; for it has my warmest wishes and prayers for success. I am, dear Sir, with great regard, &c.

No. XVI.

——— *School.*

PORTRIE, ISLE OF SKYE.

Extract from the Rev. Coll Macdonald, dated Manse of Portrie, 9th October 1812.—This Parish is intersected, in different places, by rivers and extensive arms of the sea, which render the Parish Church inaccessible to at least two-thirds of the people during the winter season. Of these, a third may be resident in the Island of Rasay, and a third in the Braes of Portrie. In both these extensive districts of the Parish, the people are for the most part unable to read the Scriptures in any language! Either of these places, therefore, I trust the Society will consider as a station in which the labours of one of their Teachers may be profitably employed. I should, however, recommend the latter place, that is, the *Braes of Portrie*. For though in Rasay the officiating Clergyman has public worship only once a month, yet there is a School upon the establishment of the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, in the Island; and, according to the regulations of his constituents, the Schoolmaster employs a considerable portion of his time in reading the Scriptures, and teaching the inhabitants the principles of the Christian religion. But the Braes have no advantage of that kind. And therefore I am sanguine in my expectation, that the Society will immediately appoint one of their Schools to that place.

No. XVII.

——— *School.*

SMALL ISLES, ISLE OF MUCK.

This Island, which forms a part of the Parish of Small Isles, has been referred to already in Part First, No. III. No intelligence has yet been received as to the opening of the Gaelic School, though it is presumed the Teacher must be, ere this time, engaged in teaching.

No. XVIII.

——— *School.*

ISLE OF TIRRE, OR TIRY.

Tirre, or Tir I. The name is said to signify the land of I, or Iona, as the island itself originally belonged to the Monastery of Iona, or Icolmkill. Tirre lies to the north-west of Iona, and 16 miles due west from Mull. It is perhaps the lowest and flattest country in Scotland, no part of the Island being 350 feet above the level of the sea; so that the waves are often seen from the one shore, rising several feet above the level of the rocks, on the other. The Clergyman of the Parish, many years ago, after reporting that they had two Schools in the Island, attended by from 60 to 80 Scholars each, added, "From whatever source funds may be obtained to accommodate this Parish properly, *Tiry* requires *four* schools, and Coll two." At that period the population of Coll and Tirre amounted to 3457, but in 1808 that of Tirre alone had increased to three thousand two hundred.

N. B. The Island of Lismore was intended at one time as the station for this Teacher, but, from farther correspondence, his destination was changed to the Island of Tirre, where there is an ample field, and very great need of his exertions.

No. XIX

Crogan School.

TOROSAY, ISLE OF MULL.

Extract from the Rev. Alexander Fraser, dated Manse of Torosay, 16th March 1812.—Your favour of the 10th came to hand yesterday; for the contents of which I beg to offer my most grateful thanks to you, and the other Christian-minded members of the Society. May the God whose cause they espouse richly bless them! May he prosper their undertakings, to the enlightening the minds of many still groping in darkness! I feel myself doubly indebted to them for their attention to the spiritual interest of the people committed to my charge.

Extracts from the Teacher, dated the 3d August and 11th September 1812.—In the place where I am, the inhabitants of two Towns may receive instruction, if they are willing to attend. Of the persons attending at present, the number between 14 and 40 is twenty-four; of those under 14, and down to 5, is fifty. As there is none who can read perfectly, I cannot fix as yet who could continue teaching here. The best readers are also of the younger sort.—As to other stations, I hear that the inhabitants of several places are emulous of getting me among them—greatly envying the benefits bestowed upon the people of Crogan; but their condition is not altogether so bad as this place when I began to teach them; and from what has been reported to me, it appears that this was as destitute as any in Mull. I am, &c.

From the Rev. Alexander Fraser, dated 27th October 1812.—It is with much pleasure I have to signify to you, that the children taught by D. Ca-

meron have made very considerable progress in the reading of Gaelic. At the same time, I beg leave to observe, that his being continued for some time longer in that station, is a very desirable thing. During summer, none could attend School but children, whereas aged people can and will attend during winter; at the conclusion of which, a very great proportion of the population of that district of the Parish will be able to read the Scriptures with advantage to themselves and others. I flatter myself with the hopes that the Society will be pleased to instruct him to continue officiating in the present station. I am, &c.

Extract from the Teacher, date Crogan, 3d December 1812.—I am very sorry that I could not meet you at Glasgow, as you desired me; but it was impossible, for your letter did not reach me till three days after the day of meeting; but when I knew from your letter that I was appointed to this place for another session, I immediately left Rannoch, and arrived here yesterday. The people are about to repair the School-house; and there is a number of young persons who were absent during the Summer, who are now at home. I find also, that some parents were so careful as to keep their children practising what they had learned before.

From the same, dated 5th December.—The people in general are very glad for my return. They tell me, that they were afraid I should not return any more. I have commenced teaching; and there is reason to think that the greatest part of them will be good readers before the termination of this session, if they attend with diligence. I hear that Mr Fraser was so good lately as to admonish them from the pulpit, to pay every attention to my teaching all the time I would be left among them.—The Minister expressed great joy at my coming into this place, from the prospect that it might be the means of much good. It being a very obscure corner, he looks upon them also as placed, in a great measure, beyond the reach of his own exertions.

No. XX.

— School.

ISLAND OF JURA.

Though there are several Schools in Jura where English is taught, yet there are various parts of it where the inhabitants are distant from any means of instruction. The Gaelic School will be placed in a destitute corner of the Island. This being a recent appointment, no intelligence could yet be received from the Teacher.

✂ The population of the Parishes, on the Mainland and in the Islands above mentioned, *unable to read either English or Gaelic*, amounts to between THIRTY AND FORTY THOUSAND; and for this number, no means of education had been provided, before the appointment of these twenty Gaelic Schools.

PART THIRD.

AID RECEIVED BY THE SOCIETY.

No. I.

THE following is a List of the Office Bearers of the Corresponding or Auxiliary Society formed in GLASGOW, for aiding the funds, and promoting the objects of this Institution.

President.

GEORGE OSWALD of Auchincruive.

•*Vice-Presidents.*

THE REV. ROBERT BALFOUR, D. D.

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, Esq. of Hallyards.

Directors.

Samuel Hunter,	John Swanston,	James Denniston,
Rev. Mr Kidston,	Kirkman Finlay,	John Hamilton,
Robert Owen,	William Kelly,	Adam Crooks,
C. S. Parker,	Colin Campbell, Jura,	John Tennant,
Rev. Mr M'Laren,	James M'Kenzie,	John Dounie,
Walter Colquhoun,	Charles M'Intosh,	Rev. Dr Burns,
Professor Richardson,	Rev. Mr Ewing,	J. Hamilton, <i>Broomfield,</i>
Professor M'Turk,	Archibald Smith,	Archibald Wallace.

REV. DR M'GILL, } *Secretaries.*
REV. MR CARMENT. }

MR HUGH MUIR, *Treasurer.*

MR BENJAMIN MATHIE, *Clerk.*

Letter from Alexander Campbell, Esq. one of the Vice-Presidents, to Mr A. Secretary, dated Glasgow, 7th May 1812.—Your obliging and agreeable communication of the 27th ult. came duly to hand. It was read at our meeting of the 28th, and gave no small satisfaction to all present. At this meeting, we passed some regulations for the future government of our infant Society, and elected Managers and Office-bearers for the current year.

Dr Macgill and Mr Carment are our Secretaries, and Mr Muir, Treasurer. I doubt not but that their appointment will give you and our other friends satisfaction; and that a very agreeable correspondence will be car-

ried on between the two Societies: indeed, it is impossible to be otherwise, as both have the same object in view. I am most anxious to see an extension of your Schools in the most needful districts, and if two or three were established in some parts of Argyleshire, it might interest the numerous gentlemen of that County. I merely throw this out as a hint, without presuming to press it; because I know that you and the other gentlemen in the direction have nothing nearer your hearts, than to do all the possible good you can. With much respect, &c.

Letter from the Rev. Dr Stevenson Macgill, Secretary of the Auxiliary Society in Glasgow, to the same, dated 9th May 1812.—The Auxiliary Society of Glasgow for aiding the views of the Society for the Support of Gaelic Schools, at their first regularly constituted meeting, unanimously voted that their thanks should be offered to the gentlemen in Edinburgh, who have formed themselves into a Society for the instruction of their countrymen in the Gaelic language. I beg leave now, through you, to convey, in the most respectful manner, the thanks thus voted; and request, that you will have the goodness to take an early opportunity of communicating them.

The Directors have voted the immediate transmission of L.200, through Dr Balfour, one of their Vice-Presidents, as an earnest of their good wishes, and determination to give full support to the important objects of your Institution, as your demands shall increase. And they request me to communicate to you, “That this Society will make such farther advances from time to time, as the exigencies of the Parent Society may require, and in a rateable proportion to the amount of the funds of the two Societies.

It will give me much pleasure to hear from you as often as any thing occurs which you think of importance, or in which we can be of use. I am, Sir, &c.

No. II.

Extract from the Rev. Alexander Stewart, Dingwall, 29th June 1812.—A considerable degree of interest has been excited in favour of your Society in this part of the country. Parochial Collections have been made for them in the Presbytery of Tain; and at the last meeting of the Northern Missionary Society, at Inverness, a resolution was passed to lend our support to the Gaelic Society, as they might seem to need it.

No. III.

Note accompanying a Donation from Lindley Murray, Esq. author of the English Grammar, and other works on education.—“He (viz. Mr W. of York,) will be so obliging as to forward to the Secretary of the Society the inclosed Five Guineas, as a donation from Lindley Murray.—I cannot close this note, without saying, that I entirely approve of the benevolent and truly Christian design of the Society for the Support of Gaelic Schools, and that I most cordially wish that the best success may attend its exertions.”

No. IV.

Extract from Mr Joseph Tarn, Assistant Secretary to the British and Foreign Bible Society, to Mr A. dated London, 18th May 1812.—I have only time to inform you, that, on the motion of our mutual friend Mr Steven, our Committee have this day voted five hundred Gaelic Bibles, and five hundred Gaelic Testaments, for the use of the Schools of the Society, instituted in Edinburgh, for the Support of Gaelic Schools.

No. V.

Note by the Treasurer relating to the purchase of Five Per Cent. Stock, as mentioned in the General Cash Account.—The object of this deposit is not to accumulate a fund to make the Society at all independent of the public bounty, but merely to balance occasional fluctuations, which might otherwise affect the steady operations of the Society.

END OF THE APPENDIX.

LIST OF SCHOOLMASTERS AND THEIR STATIONS, &c.

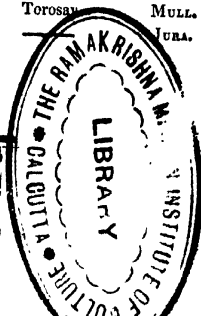
Highlands.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Stations.</i>	<i>Parish.</i>	<i>County.</i>
JAMES MUNRO.	<i>Badantarbeth.</i>	Lochbroom.	ROSS-SHIRE.
MARGARET SINCLAIR.	<i>Keppoch.</i>	Ditto.	Ditto.
PETER MAC EWEN.	<i>Monkcastle.</i>	Ditto.	Ditto.
NICOL NICOLSON.	<i>Melivaig.</i>	Gairloch.	Ditto.
JAMES MUNRO.	<i>Scatwell.</i>	Contin.	Ditto.
HUGH FRASER.	<i>Calnukile.</i>	Applecross.	Ditto.
RODERICK MACLEOD.	<i>Jeantown.</i>	Loch-Carron.	Ditto.
DUNCAN CAMPBELL.	<i>Muirshialich.</i>	Kilmalie.	INVERNESS.
PETER MAC EWEN.	<i>Moydart.</i>	Ardnamurchan.	Ditto.
HUGH DEWAR.	<i>Kilmorie.</i>	Ditto.	ARGYLL.

Islands.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Stations.</i>	<i>Parish.</i>	<i>Island.</i>
ANGUS MACLEOD.	<i>Bayble.</i>	Stornoway.	LEWES.
ALEXANDER MACLEOD.	—	North Uist.	NORTH UIST.
JOHN BEATON.	<i>Clachan.</i>	Kilmuir.	SKYE.
JOHN MACLEOD.	<i>Hearlosh and Roag.</i>	Diurnish.	Ditto.
ALEX. McDONALD.	—	Bracadale.	Ditto.
ALEX. MUNRO.	<i>The Braes.</i>	Portrie.	Ditto.
WILLIAM WALKER.	—	Small Isles.	MUCK.
ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL.	—	Coll and Tiree.	TIREE.
DONALD CAMERON.	<i>Crogan.</i>	Torossay.	MULL.
PETER MAC EWAN.	—	—	JURA.

Recd. on... 4. 12. 74
R. R. No... 4596...
G. R. No... 17856



LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS AND BENEFACTORS,

ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED.

Although every attention has been paid to the following List of Names, some small inaccuracies may perhaps be found in Designations, &c. Any Corrections will be thankfully received by the Clerk, Mr HUTCHISON, at the Treasurer's, 29, Heriot Row, West.

The Subscribers to this Institution will please observe, that the Subscriptions are payable Annually, in the Month of DECEMBER, immediately after the Anniversary; and the Committee request the favour of Country Correspondents to order payment in Edinburgh by some Friend, or to mention where the Officer may call regularly for payment of their Annual Subscriptions.

A	Donations.	Annual Subscript.
Adam, Rev. Robert, A. B. Minister of the Episcopal Chapel, Blackfriars Wynd, Edinburgh,	£1	1 0
Adie, Mr James, Farmer, Blackgrange,	£0	10 0
Aikman, Mr John, & Society, Edinburgh,		1 1 0
Aitchison, Miss Margaret, Airdrie,	2	2 0
Aitken, James, Esq. Catlands, Peebles-shire,		0 10 6
Alpine, Rev. Mr, Stirling,		0 10 6
Anderson, Mr Archibald, Merchant, Edinburgh,		1 1 0
Anderson, Mr Charles, do. do. . . .		1 1 0
Anderson, Mr Chris. Minister of the Gospel, do. (Secretary)		1 1 0
Anderson, Dr James, James's Square, do. . . .	2	2 0
Anderson, Mr John, Lothian Street, do. . . .		1 1 0
Anderson, Mr Robert, Adams' Square, Edinburgh,		1 1 0
Arnott, Mr William, Bookseller, do. . . .		0 10 6
B		
Breadalbane, Right Hon. the Earl of, (Vice President)	10	0 0
Balfour, Mr Andrew, Printer, Edinburgh,		2 2 0
Barnes, Mr Zachary, Liverpool, per Mr Chris. Anderson,	2	2 0
Bateman, Mrs, do. per do. . . .	1	0 0
Bates, Mrs, per Jos. Ryner, Esq. London,	10	0 0
Begbie, Mr Andrew, Haddington,		0 10 6
Begbie, Mr Patrick, Cairndinness, East Lothian,		1 1 0
Begbie, Miss, do. do. . . .		0 10 6
Belfrage, Rev. Henry, Falkirk,	1	1 0
Bertram, Mr E., Hazeldean, near London,		1 1 0

	Donations.	Annual Subscript.
Bethune, Divie, Esq. New York, per J. Reyner, Esq.	£21 0 0	
Black, Mr Adam, Bookseller, Edinburgh,		£0 10 6
Blackadder, Mr Alexander, Driphill, Stirlingshire,		1 1 0
Blackadder, John, Esq. Accomptant-General of Excise,		1 1 0
Blackwood, John Strachan, Esq. Edinburgh,		1 1 0
Blair, Mrs. Dumfries,	1 1 0	
Bog, Robert, Esq. 24 Queen's Street, Edinburgh,		1 1 0
Braidwood, B. W. Mr, Roxburgh Street, do.	1 1 0	1 1 0
Braidwood, Mr Francis, Commercial Bank, Edinburgh,		0 10 6
Braidwood, William, Mr junior, do.		1 1 0
Brechin Auxiliary Bible Society, (donation to purchase Gaelic Bibles,) per Rev. Mr Whitson,	5 0 0	
Brown, Mr David, Bookseller, Edinburgh,		1 1 0
Brown, Rev. Ebenezer, Inverkeithing,		1 1 0
Brown, George, Esq. Merchant, London,	5 0 0	
Brown, Rev. John, Biggar,		0 10 6
Brown, Rev. John, Whitburn,		0 10 6
Brown, Dr Thomas, Professor of Moral Philosophy, University of Edinburgh,		1 1 0
Brown, Mr Walter, Merchant, Edinburgh,		1 1 0
Brown, Mrs. senlor, Haddington,		0 10 6
Bruce, Mr Alexander, junior, Upholsterer, Edinburgh,		1 1 0
Brunton, Mr George, Merchant, do.		1 1 0
Burnett, John, Esq. of Kemnay, Aberdeenshire, (Vice President)		1 1 0
Burns, Rev. Dr, Minister of Barony, Glasgow,	1 1 0	
Burns, John, Esq. Surgeon, do.	1 1 0	

C

Cameron, Mr John, Tailor, Edinburgh,		0 10 6
Campbell, Alexander, Esq. Millhill, Musselburgh,	1 1 0	1 1 0
Campbell, Mr Duncan, Hull,	1 0 0	
Campbell, John, Esq. of Warriston, W. S.		1 1 0
Campbell, John, Esq. of Carbrook, W. S. (Treasurer)		1 1 0
Campbell, Mr John, Edinburgh, (Gaelic Secretary)		0 10 6
Campbell, Mr, Surgeon, Inverkeithing,		0 10 6
Campbell, Mrs. St John's Street, Stirling,	1 0 0	
C. Mrs. by Mr L.	1 0 0	
Carlisle, James, Esq. Paisley, (two donations)	6 0 0	
Carnegy, Mrs. of Charleton,		0 10 6
Cathcart, Robert, Esq. W. S. Edinburgh,		1 1 0
Clapperton, Miss, Haddington,		0 10 6
Clarkson, John, Esq. Paisley,	2 2 0	
Cochrane, John, Esq. Broadstreet-Place, London,	10 10 0	2 0 0
Connal, Mr Michael, Stirling,	1 1 0	
Coventry, Dr Andw. Prof. of Agriculture, Univ. of Edin.		1 1 0
Cromble, Mr John, Dyer, do.		0 10 6
Croom, Mr George, Merchant, Montrose,		1 1 0
Croumble, Mr John, Haddington,		1 1 0
Cruikshank, Mr Alexander, Hosier, Edinburgh,		1 1 0

D

Davidson, Wm. Esq. Kensington, per Rev. A. Waugh,	21 0 0	
Dick, Mr John, Merchant, Whitburn,	0 10 6	
Dickson, Rev. David, Minister of St Cuthbert's		1 1 0
Donaldson, Mr Alexander, Haddington,		0 10 6

	Donations.	Annual Subscriber.
Donaldson, Hay, Esq. W. S. Edinburgh		£1 1 0
Douglas, Mr Alexander, Candlemaker, Edinburgh,		0 10 6
Douglas, James, Esq. Younger of Cavers, Roxburghshire,		1 1 0
Drummond, Mr John, South-bridge Street, Edinburgh,		0 10 6
Drummond, Mr William, Stirling,	£0 10 6	
Drysdale, Mr Peter, Teacher, Edinburgh,	0 10 6	
Duncan, Mr Henry, Merchant, do.		1 1 0
Duncan, John, Esq. of Rosemount,		2 2 0
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E

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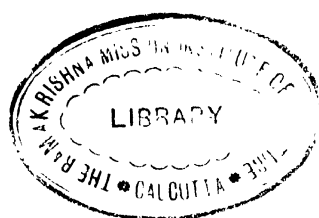
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